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The History of Scott County to 1880

by Edison Shrum

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THE SCOTT COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGY SOCIETY

IS PLEASED TO MAKE AVAILABLE THIS TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF

"THE HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY TO 1880"
BY EDISON SHRUM

YOU WILL NOTE THE HANDWRITTEN MARGIN NOTES
WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE AN INTERESTING COMPANION PIECE
TO THE BOOK

FOREWORD

What you are about to read, in the succeeding pages, is the result of much labor by many persons. Credits appear elsewhere in this volume, recognizing many individuals. One person, however, deserves credit far greater than any of the rest of us.

Edison Shrum has painstakingly researched and documented thousands of items, over the past three years and has devoted hours totaling into the thousands, while researching and writing this book. Without his knowledge and ability to do the research, coupled with his willingness to undertake this tremendous task, this time span of the history of Scott County may well have been lost forever.

It has been my privilege to know and work with Edison Shrum, it is now my distinct honor to extend to him the extreme gratitude and thanks, not only from the Scott County Historical Society membership, but indeed, from every citizen of Scott County.

It is our hope that this book will stand as a tribute to Edison Shrum from this day forward.

Eugene Diebold, President

Scott County Historical Society

INTRODUCTION

The history of Scott County, as a political entity, dates back 161 years; white settlement therein, another 32 years, explorations by Europeans, an additional 116 years.

This period of 309 years encompasses all of our recorded history. But there was, of course, a much longer period of 8,000 years or more, when the area now designated Scott County, was occupied by the American aborigines. First by wandering tribes of hunters and gatherers, then by more sedentary groups, who practiced a rudimentary form of agriculture and established primitive towns and villages.

Then, to the above, we should add, to make our story complete, a sketch of a period of some four billion years, during which tectonic forces, and later, both tectonic forces and erosion, shaped the topography of our region into the hills and lowlands that we know today.

That is the span of the history of what we now call Scott County. Obviously no single book can record its minute details. Nor would the situation be much improved, if we confined our attention to the 161 years that have elapsed since the county was organized, for in the courthouse at Benton alone there are literally thousands of volumes covering the day-to-day development of the county's history.

The task of the historian thus becomes the twofold ones of selection and condensation. No two people will agree entirely on what should be included in such a history, and what should be left out. Ultimately, the decision is one that has to be made by the compiler or historian and the few who work with him on the project.

In previous histories, the space allocated to Scott County has been minimal. The Goodspeed Publishing Co's. 1888 "History of Southeast Missouri," for example, though it contained 589 pages of history, had only nine pages of text dealing specifically with the history of Scott County and its towns.

Robert S. Douglass in his 1912 "History of Southeast Missouri" likewise gave very limited coverage to Scott County, perhaps even less than the publishers of the Goodspeed history. Each of these works, however, contained biographical supplements that were considerably more lengthy than their historical sections. Even so, in the case of Goodspeeds, the Scott County section of the "Biographical Appendix" covered the lives of only 91 of the county's residents--and this solely because they had paid the publishers $20 for the book and their biography printed therein.

The publishers no doubt viewed these biographical sections solely as a means of promoting the sales of their books. But the curious thing is that, over the years, interest in the biographies has increased to the point where it perhaps equals the historical sections in that respect. Nor is this altogether surprising, for they have proved a rich source of information on the social, personal and economic aspects of our history; not to mention providing a veritable treasure-trove of facts for those doing genealogical research.

Royal E. Ford's 1939 "History of Scott County, Missouri," a 42-page paper covered pamphlet, part of the limited space in which was taken up by ads, is the only work ever published that dealt specifically and solely with the history of this county. Ford and his student assistants unfortunately did very little research, and consequently had to borrow much of their early history of the county from the sketchy accounts in the Goodspeed, Houck and Douglass works.

The only really comprehensive histories dealing with even a part of Scott County are "A History of Sikeston," by Audrey Cheney, published in 1960 by Ramfre Press; the "History of the New Hamburg Parish," which has been copied but never formally published, and "Kelso, Our Parish, One Hundred Years, 1878-1978." Respectively, the books contain 132, 111 and 176 pages,and represent commendable accomplishments on the part of their compilers.

Unfortunately a number of pioneer villages, such as New York, Price's Landing, Brockville, Aderton City and Winchester have been neglected or totally ignored by historians. In exculpation of this neglect, though, it should be mentioned that this was likely ~~been~~ due to the loss or destruction, during the Civil War, of many of the records covering the period when these places flourished. This has made research on these early settlements time-consuming and difficult.

Through diligence in research in county records, newspaper files and field investigations, my associates and I in the Scott County Historical Society and the Southeast Missouri Historical Research Association have managed to fill in many of the gaps in the early history of the county. And, as a consequence of this research, you will find this book to be no mere rehash of previously published material. Hence, unlike most county histories, it should be of interest to the scholar and historian, as well as to the public in general.

#######

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY

The oldest Ozarkian formations are not represented in surface outcrops in Scott County. Some of them are here, of course, but deeply buried.

The oldest formation, thought to be the Smithville, of Ordivician age, outcrops at Bird Hill in the very westernmost part of the county. As we move eastward along the northern rim of the Scott County hills, we find that the exposed formations become progressively younger, due to the southeasterly dip or tilt of the rocks of this area.

The Everton formation, made up of dolomite, sandstone and shale, rises high above the lowlands at Rockview and south along the bluffs toward Chaffee. A bit further east at Lost Hill, the St. Peter, a sandstone formation, thrusts well above the surface.

The southeasterly tilt, however, is such, that at Illmo, City Well No. 1 entered the St. Peter sandstone at a depth of 915 feet.

The next major outcrop is at the abandoned Hillman quarry east of Interstate 55. This appears to be a Dutchtown formation limestone. Beyond that, at the bluffs just south of the Marquette Mud Lakes, the Joachim formation outcrops. This is a moderately cavernous formation at that point, as is evident from the numerous small caves and water channels that lace and perforate these bluffs.

One curious feature of a few of these caves that run parallel to the face of the bluffs is that only the inner half is now present. This bisection indicates that the valley to the north, once occupied by the Mississippi River, was formed, not by erosion, but by rifting or

faulting, with the missing outer half of these caves probably still present some distance down under the floor of the valley. Too, the break-off line at the cliff is quite sharp, bearing no evidence of having been subjected to long-term erosion, which would have been the case if the Mississippi had cut its way through these rocks.

This cavernous section of the Joachim formation, like the other strata in this area, tilts to the south and east. In fact Fornfelt's City Well No.1, completed in April of 1937, encountered this cavernous formation at a depth of 204 feet. Most of the city's water, over the past 45 years, has been drawn from this interlaced system of caverns and fissures. And occasionally, when water is pumped from a cave that approaches near to surface, its roof, no longer supported by the pressure of this water, collapses, forming a sinkhole.

Perhaps that explains the sinkhole that developed about two blocks east of the business district of Illmo on Dec. 17, 1937, and the one that caved in in Scott City's new city park in 1973, while test pumping was underway at the new park well.

The Illmo sinkhole, incidentally, was 8 feet wide and 15 feet deep, and the city park one, 30 feet wide and 20 feet deep. It need not trouble us that the Illmo sinkhole was located a mile and a quarter from the Fornfelt well, for dyes poured in sinkholes in the Ozarks have shown up in springs as much as twenty miles away, showing that these cave and fissure systems can be, and often are, quite lengthy.

Moving east to the outcrops at the northern tip of Grays Point, we find the Plattin formation for a hundred yards or so, but then

dipping under the ~~Kimmswick~~ the white crystalline limestones of the Kimmswick formation.

At the base of the Plattin at this location, there is a thin layer of highly fossiliferous limestone. Whole slabs of this have been found almost entirely covered by literally hundreds of well-preserved shells of brachiopods and pelecypods. Sometimes, too, parting planes in these layers, show the imprints of raindrops of showers; also ripple marks made by waves that washed the beach of this shallow sea some 450 million years ago.

Unfortunately quarrying operations at the Point have covered these outcrops, so that it is no longer possible to examine this interesting stratum at that location.

The Kimmswick remains the surface formation down to within a hundred yards or so of the Thebes railroad bridge. There is an anticlinal high, though, about a quarter of a mile north of the bridge, that ~~brings~~ exposes ~~the~~ an outcrop of the Plattin formation in a valley leading west from the bluff.

Along the river just north of the bridge, there is a small outcrop of grayish-green Maquoketa shale, and to the south of the bridge, to Kew Creek, outcrops of Thebes sandstone, the last of the Ordivician age formations in our area.

Up Kew Creek, however, another anticlinal high brings the Kimmswick limestone formation again to the surface. From that point south, though, there is another dip, or syncline, followed by the Grand Chain anticlinal high that extends south to Rose Creek.

~~All of this area, from the Manning's Landing Road south to Commerce, has been extensively faulted and folded~~

Structurally, the area along the river from Kew Creek south to Commerce is extremely complex, but at the same time of great interest. It is one of two zones of faulting and folding that emerge from under the northern edge of the gulf or embayment sediments. It exposes for study and visual examination an extension of the fault zone that passes through the New Madrid area, and along which the movements that accompanied the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811 and 1812 occurred. Fortunately for us, this fault zone does not appear to have been active above the latitude of Charleston in historic times. But there must have been horrendous activity along it at one time, judging by the number and magnitude of the faults in this area.

According to the Missouri Geological Survey, the Albrecht Creek fault has a throw, or vertical movement of about 400 feet, the result of which is the stacking of Thebes sandstone, a 430,000,000 year old Ordivician age formation, alongside chert of the 350 million year old Devonian age Bailey formation. And the Chalk Bluff fault, only a quarter of mile downstream, has a throw of 450 feet. Furthermore, each of the creeks flowing into the Mississippi to the south of Kew Creek, expose numerous faults and folds, some of the latter being so sharp as to virtually stand the originally horizontal layers of rock on end.

In 1940-41 Dan R. Stewart and Lyle McManamy of the Missouri Geological Survey, assisted by workers supplied by the W,P.A., test drilled the unconsolidate Mesozoic and Cenozoic clays and sands exposed in the east-west valley just north of the old Commerce cemetery.

According to their report, they found, "in the downstream half of this valley two synclinal axes and one anticlinal axis, with north and south strike." Hole No. 9, which cut the highest point of the anticline, "encountered the Thebes (Ordivician) sandstone at a depth of 22 feet."

"Hole No. 10, on the eastern end of the section is also structurally high having penetrated the upper tripolitic zone of the Bailey (Devonian) limestone and chert at about 25 feet. A pre-Cretaceous fault with a throw of nearly 500 feet, involving only the Paleozoic rocks, is evident between these holes."

"The relief on this folding averages 150 feet, with the distance from the crest of one anticline to the crest of an adjacent one being in the neighborhood of 600 feet. Outcrops displaying steeply dipping strata occur in all parts of the valley with many beds standing almost vertical."

"The entire Coastal Plain section of the Crowley's Ridge area is exposed in this valley. The crustal disturbances which brought forth this deformation involved the entire Cretaceous and Tertiary section, and included the"Lafayette" gravel," but not the surface loessial clay.

"From these relationships it is evident that the time the deformation occurred was post "Lafayette," pre-loess, in either late Tertiary or early Quaternary times. "

The "tripolitic zone of the Bailey limestone and chert," encountered at a depth of 25 feet in Hole No. 10, is the featured formation exposed at Chalk Bluff on the river bank about one mile north of Commerce.

The Bailey is a lower Devoninan formation, and while considering it, it should be mentioned that, at the low-water bridge on Holden

(Holder) Creek, on the old Commerce road, there is a much-shattered outcrop of the pink Bainbridge formation limestone, which is a middle Devonian formation. This, to my knowledge, is the only exposure of that formation in Scott County.

Another interesting feature of this southeast corner of the Scott County hills is the fossilized flora of Upper Cretaceous age, the woody specimens of which occur as float in the stream beds of the region, while the imprints of leaves from the upper branches of these fossilized trees are to be found in the parting planes of some Cretaceous age clays that outcrop in hillside gullies a mile or so west of Commerce.

Most of the fossil wood specimens are less than two feet in length, but there have been reports of much larger pieces having been found. Most of the pieces, however, appear to have been fragmented before they were fossilized, and some have quite obviously been driftwood for an extended period of time. In fact, it would seem that this wood, which is always minus stumps and roots, came from trees broken off and shattered, perhaps by an Upper Gulf hurricane, then, after a time, washed up on a beach here at the upper end of the ancient gulf, where it either settled down in, or was subsequently covered by, a ferro-silicate ooze, that coated, and as the silicate component was absorbed, fossilized and preserved these bits of wood so effectively that, even though some sixty-five million years have passed since they were laid down on this Commerce beach, they, nevertheless, have come down to us so perfectly preserved that even their most minute cell structure can often be seen. Also, in many cases, they retain on their surfaces traces of the ferro-silicate coating that preserved them; and this ferro-silicate ooze remnant is sometimes filled with small, well-polished pebbles, such as are often present on beaches today.

Marine fossils, typical of a warm and shallow sea, are occasionally found in some of the Cretaceous and Tertiary clays that outcrop in gullies or along creeks on the southern edge of the Scott County, or Benton, Hills. Unfortunately, in most cases, these have been found to be poorly preserved. Employes of the Missouri Geological Survey, however, did succeed in determining the species of a few gastropod and pelecypod shells found at Benton Hills outcrops. The "Biennial Report of the State Geologist, 1935," mentions two of these Scott County marine fossil sites.

The topographic features of Scott County were, in the main, given their final shaping by the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and their local tributaries. And while it may come as a surprise to some that the latter river played any part in this, it nevertheless did so while the Mississippi occupied its ancient channels both west and east of Crowley's Ridge.

In the beginning the Mississippi flowed through the lowlands between the Scott County Hills and the Cape Girardeau upland, following, for a ways, the course now occupied by the Diversion Channel, then turned south around the western side of Crowley's Ridge, maintaining then a southeasterly course until it entered its present channel near where the city of Natchez, Mississippi, is now located.

Later it cut south through the present gap between the Scott County, or Benton, Hills, and flowed south through the Morehouse Lowlands Crowley's Ridge, and from there flowed south through the Morehouse Lowlands.

The Ohio, while these situations prevailed, flowed across Scott County south of the Benton Hills and east of the Sikeston Ridge. It is possible, however, that earlier faulting played a significant role in determining the location of the southern scarp of the Benton Hills. Nevertheless, the principal features of the southeastern quarter of Scott County appear to have been shaped mainly by the Ohio River.

This becomes more apparent when we realize that the Mississippi occupied the Thebes-Commerce gorge, or gap, something less than 18,000 years ago; and funneling through this straight and narrow gap, no longer ago than that, would not likely have developed the relatively enormous meanders that would have been necessary for it to have wandered as far afield as the Sikeston Ridge.

It should be mentioned, too, that when the Mississippi River occupied the Thebes-Commerce gorge, it beheaded and dried up the small river that had occupied the Scott City valley. Prior to that, Sexton and Orchard creeks, in Illinois, and Albrecht, Kew, Rubel and Holder creeks in Missouri, flowed into the Scott City river. And even today, all except Sexton Creek, flow north toward this former river, rather than east or south toward the present Mississippi.

For many years geologists thought that the headwaters of a small tributary of the Ohio, cutting north between Commerce and Thebes, had tapped the Mississippi and diverted it into its present channel. However, anyone who has inspected the sharply truncated eastern end of the Grand Chain, will realize that a subsided rift, produced by seismic activity, is a more probable cause. Much more probable, in fact, than that a small stream with a relatively low gradient could

knife its way through the massive limestone formations of the Grand Chain and the even more resistant quartzite boulders of the Little Chain, both of which quite obviously once extended entirely across the present river valley and into Illinois.

The Mississippi's final gift to Scott County was the fertile loessial topsoil of its uplands. This originally was little more than rock flour that had been ground up by the Pleistocene epoch glaciers to our north, then carried by the Mississippi to the grass covered flood plains of this area. In the late summer, the Mississippi, as is its habit even today, would cease to overflow its banks, its floodplains would dry out and the wind would then blow the rock dust over adjoining uplands. The Scott County deposits tend to thin toward the southwest, with the thickest exposures being along the northeastern rim of the uplands. Along the Missouri Pacific railroad north of Scott City fifty or more feet of loess was cut to obtain fill to elevate the tracks across the lowlands into Cape Girardeau. There are other very thick deposits a quarter of a mile north of Thebes Bridge and just north of Commerce.

FOOTNOTE

Another interesting feature of the Thebes-Commerce gorge area that I first viewed, in company with Larry Dumey, on March 22, 1983, and hence did not mention in the foregoing material, is the scar of an old landslide located on the river bluff on the Vincent or Dave Miller farm. The land survey description of the site is the NE¼ of the NW¼ of fractional Section 13, Township 29N., R14E.

The slump scarp of this slide is still some 20 feet high and approximately 183 feet in length. The slumped section is still in place some 100 feet downhill from the scarp. Slippage occurred along a seepage zone at the base of a layer of Cretaceous clays and sands. These rest on a downsloping layer of Thebes sandstone possibly topped with a thin layer of Maquoketa shale.

Age of the trees on the slumped area suggest that this landslide occurred more than fifty years ago. To my knowledge, it is the only landslide of any proportions that has occurred in Scott County. However, to the southwest in Stoddard County, the scars of a number of landslides could formerly be seen along the bluffs from just southwest of Bell City to a mile or so southwest of the former town of Ardeola. In fact, one of the largest of these occurred no longer ago than May 7, 1927.

A complete description of the area of this landslide can be found in the article on the "Occurrence of Bauxitic Clay in Stoddard County, Mo.," published in the 1943 Biennial Report of the State Geologist. Also see my article "Biggest Landslide in Area Recalled by Local Citizen," published in the Oct. 7, 1954 issue of the Cape Girardeau "Southeast Weekly Bulletin."

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY OF SCOTT COUNTY

We do not usually think of Scott County as a significant center for mining and quarrying activities, probably because none of the glamor metals such as gold and silver have never been mined here.

Nevertheless, much of interest in the way of mining has occurred here, and, some of it, at a surprisingly early date. This was brought home to me recently when my friends, John Owen and Larry Morrill and myself, found samples of locally-occurring red ochery interred among the skeletal remains of early Woodland Indians, who died perhaps 2,000 years ago, and were buried on a low ridge in the Diversion Channel lowlands about a mile and a half northwest of Scott City. Then John and Larry, a few weeks later, while exploring a mound on a hilltop along the bluffs just south of the Cape Girardeau airport, found a potsherd, the exterior of which featured cord impressions, and the interior, a coating of yellow ocher, that, as is usually the case with this mineral, had turned a fiery-red when it was fired.

This hilltop mound likely is something over 1,000 years old. So, it would appear that the Indians mined ocher in this region over a period of at least 1,000 years. The Indians also utilized locally occurring cherts from the inclusions in the limestones of the Grand Chain, and from gravel deposits in creeks and along the bank of the Mississippi, especially between New York and Counterfeit Rock.

The Little Chain's huge quartzite boulders were utilized by them for the manufacture of large weapons and implements, such as spear points, spades and hoes. Later, the early French settlers came to the Little Chain to get rock for use as millstones.

Potter's clays from the region between Kew Creek and Commerce were mined and exported as early as 1835, also utilized locally at the New York pottery, and probably at Commerce, too.

Snider and Collins in their 1956 book, "Cape Girardeau: Biography of a City," refer to a pottery located in Cape Girardeau "in the 1830s," that was using clay from "Tywappity Bottom," which was obviously not the case, as the silts, sands and swamp "gumbos" of that region are totally unfit for the manufacture of anything approaching a good grade of stoneware. No doubt what they were actually doing was obtaining their clays from pits in the relatively nearby New York area, as this area was, at least up until about 1840, often referred to as "Tywappity."

Then, in 1837, the tripolitic chert and the soft white clay on Robert Owen's land at Chalk Bluff just above Commerce, was mined and shipped to James Clew's Indiana Pottery Co. plant at Troy, Indiana; and in the 1850s, to a delftware manufacturer at St. Louis. The Owen heirs sold this property in 1860. The new owners, after the Civil War, leased the mineral rights to Bennett & Colclough, partners from East Liverpool, Ohio, who mined and shipped the Chalk Bluff clay to a white-ware manufacturing firm at East Liverpool.

Another product mined and exported by Owen was sand. A huge bluff of this outcrops along the river-bank in an elevated position that made gravity loading of barges and wagons entirely practical.

Betty F. Powell, "History of Mississippi County," 1975, page 300, notes that the Jacob Swank home, ~~[illegible]~~ now a large brick house located one mile west of Charleston, Mo., "was built in 1839." Lime for the mortar coming from the Rock Levee Road area and sand from Sand Bluff near Commerce, Missouri.

Thebes sandstone, which is relatively soft and easily quarried, but hardens on exposure to the air, was quarried at an early date just south of New York, Mo., by Thomas H. Price, and perhaps others. A large quarry was opened in the riverside bluffs there. There is little evidence of any extensive use of these blocks in the New York area. Only three houses in the village actually had foundations or basements made of this material. However, a nearby house, that of the potter Burkhart Juengling, had a Thebes sandstone basement, which is still intact, although the house above it has collapsed.

Some of the sandstone blocks in the walls of this basement are suprisingly large. One of these, not now covered with debris, was measured, and found to be 48 inches long, 12 inches wide and 19 inches high. Its weight, according to masonry tables we have seen, is estimated to be about 650 pounds.

This limited local use suggests that the stone from this large quarry was, like the other New York products, shipped by boat to points on the Mississippi or Ohio rivers.

The Indians appear to have made occasional use of Thebes sandstone, too. Houck, in his "History of Missouri," mentioned having in his possession a "yellow sandstone pipe" that a farmer had found in a mound near Sikeston, and of Beckwith possessing a similar pipe from a Mississippi County mound.

Thebes sandstone normally is brown or buff in color, but in the valley just west of the New York pottery, there are several outcrops of a yellow phase of this formation, and in all probability the Indians obtained their yellow pipestone from these deposits, since, to the best of my knowledge, there are no other outcrops of yellow sandstone in this area.

Limestone was quarried and burned in kilns at least as early as 1867, as we learn from an item in an 1867 edition of the county's first newspaper, the "Commerce Dispatch." This item tells of Edmund Gray, Sr., having opened a quarry and constructed a kiln at Grays Point. Also that he was just completing a steamboat, which he called (We hope, facetiously)"The Last Resort," and was planning to use it to haul the quicklime manufactured at his kiln, and to carry freight and passengers between Cape Girardeau and Commerce.

Limestone is still being quarried at the Point on an extensive scale by Westlake Quarries, but the burning of lime was discontinued there more than 80 years ago.

Shortly after the Civil War . . . the exploitation of the extensive ocher deposits along the southwest rim of the Scott County hills got under way. W.S. Bassett was mining and milling ocher a mile or so southeast of Oran as early as 1873."Campbell's Gazetteer"(1874) indicates that he was also, by mixing the finely ground ocher with linseed oil, manufacturing a high grade of yellow paint.

Bassett's mine and mill were located in Section 29 on property now owned by Louie Hirschowitz. Ocher outcrops are still visible in a stream bed

on the Hirschowitz land, and some mining no doubt was done by open pit methods, but Abram Hirschowitz, who accompanied me on a tour of the site, remembers that, during his boyhood years, the opening of an old mine tunnel was still visible on a hillside above the stream bed outcrops.

The Bassett ocher mine and mill were still in operation in 1883, but did not, I believe, survive the depression of the 1890s, because it is not listed in the April 20, 1900 biographical and industrial edition of "The Scott County Newsboy," and is referred to in the 1912 edition of Douglass' "History of Southeast Missouri" in a way that suggests that it had by then been out of business for a considerable length of time.

The mining of Fuller's Earth in Scott County is a relatively recent development. No studies were made on its occurrence in Scott County until 1935, when the Missouri Geological Survey published a report on "The Geology and Bleaching Clays of Southeast Missouri."

The authors of this report noted that "outcrops of the Porters Creek clay (Fuller's Earth) can be traced from a point about one-half mile west of Commerce, through various points in the southeastern portion of the Benton Hills." And, that "the width of the area in which outcrops of this clay can be found increases in a southwesterly direction from Commerce." "The maximun known thickness in Scott County is 40 feet."

The Scott County Fuller's Earth is a part of the Eocene Age Porters Creek formation, and is a shallow sea deposit of what was originally volcanic ash washed into the ancient Gulf of Mexico from volcanoes in the northwest that were active during Eocene times.

In the beginning this highly absorbent clay was used by fullers to remove the oil from wool. Hence the name. Later it was used to absorb the colors in both mineral and vegetable oils. But a great market for it did not develop until it began to be used to absorb the odors of animal wastes.

PREHISTORIC MAN IN SCOTT COUNTY

The date when man first arrived in Scott County is still very much a moot question. Moot, I might add, not because the problem would be so very difficult to solve, but because virtually no effort has ever been made toward solving it.

As things stand now, about the only real investigatory work that has been done in this county, was that done 104 to 106 years ago by members of the St. Louis Academy of Science.

The "Missouri Archaeologist," a periodical that has been published by the Missouri Archaeological Society since March, 1935, on the other hand, has never carried a single article devoted to any aspect of the archaeology of this county. Nor has our national Bureau of American Ethnology done much better. Outside of some general remarks in their Twelfth (1894) Annual Report and four or five lines in Fowke's 1910 "Antiquities of Central and Southeast Missouri," they, too, have pretty well ignored Scott County.

There are reports that Clovis-type points have been found in the southeastern corner of the county. This would suggest that Paleo-Indians were living in that area eight to ten thousand years ago. Much more research, however, needs to be done before any really solid conclusions can be reached as to when man first arrived in this county.

The Woodland Indians certainly were here, and in considerable numbers, perhaps as much as 3,500 years ago. Their campsites and burial grounds appear to be almost exclusively confined, or immediately adjacent to, the hill section of the county. The latter years of their occupation

of this area seems to have overlapped, in time, the Early Mississippi occupation of the sandy ridges in the southeastern part of the county. Which means that they may have been in this area as late as 1,000 A.D.; a fact that may account for their having become mound builders during the last century or so of their residence here. At any rate, they did erect a number of mounds. These are to be found in the hill region of the county, mostly on the tops of high hills along the northern rim of this upland area.

An especially fine example is located on the top of a high hill about one and one-quarter miles west of Scott City. People associated with Southeast Missouri University are reported to have trenched this mound years ago. No report, though, appears to have been published, nor is there any evidence that any of the artifacts that must have been found at that time, have been preserved or exhibited in the University's museum.

Recent investigations at this site by John Owen, Larry Morrill and myself, turned up a typical Woodland Indian arrowhead, two large boar's tusks and a most unusual piece of corded paddle pottery. The unusual feature being that the inside of this pot had been coated with an orangish-yellow pigment, presumably ocher from the deposits of that mineral southeast of Oran.

So, even though all of the evidence points to this being a late Woodland site, the mound and the pigment-coated pot suggest that the Early Mississippi Indians were already their neighbors, and were by then exerting a strong influence on the life style of the Woodland Indians.

Jim Burton, Larry Morrill, John Owen and myself also investigated an Early Woodland Indian camp and burial site on a low ridge extending from the northern edge of the Scott County hills out into the lowlands between Scott City and Cape Girardeau.

Perhaps a dozen or more burials had been made at this site. The exact number was difficult to ascertain because these were burials of dismembered and fleshless skeletons, with the bones mixed together in an indiscriminate manner. Apparently most of the skeletons were incomplete, too, at the time they were buried. Foot bones and finger bones seemed to be missing from all of them.

The great age of the burials was indicated by the extremely decayed conditions of the bones, many of which were no more than a white discoloration in the black soil in which they had been buried. Even the teeth, in some instances had decayed until only the outer shell of enamel remained.

The associated corded paddle potsherds also bore evidence of great age. Only relatively tiny sherds were found, and these had been made so long ago that the cord marks on their exteriors were only barely discernible.

One small piece of pottery bearing Hopewell-type incided decorations was found on this site, indicating that Indians of that culture had camped there at some later date.

There are reliable reports that a petroglyph rock once existed at the point where the burial site ridge joins the limestone bluffs. This, however, has since been buried or destroyed by quarrying operations at that location.

The ~~Grays Point~~ hilltops and ridges of the Grays Point area ~~were~~ also once bore evidence of an extended but more recent occupation by the Woodland Indians. There, the cord marks on the potsherds were still sharp and clear, and the sherds themselves were much larger than those at the previously mentioned burial site.

I examined this area early in 1962, just before West Lake Quarry & Materials Co. began their leveling operations there, which ultimately destroyed all of these sites.

On the hill overlooking the point, I found numerous arrowheads, ~~potsherds~~ spearheads and potsherds; and on the low ridge running northeast from the Gray home, in addition to artifacts similar to the above, beaver and bears' ~~teeth~~ teeth, animal bones and fragments of deer's antlers ~~were also~~ also were found.

A petroglyph rock, south of the point, between Manning's Landing and Thebes Bridge, ~~reportedly~~ has been silted over, as the result of ~~the construction of a stone dike just above it~~ a stone dike being built out into the river just above it.

The river bank ~~just~~ between the Grand Chain and Counterfeit Rock is covered with large and small pebbles of chert, banded quartz, and various igneous rocks suitable for the manufacture of arrowheads and other stone artifacts. Numerous flaked pieces and arrowheads; the latter in some instances almost gemlike in color and transparency; have been picked up at this site and indicate that the Indians recognized the quality and ~~of them~~ beauty of these stones and came there over an extended period of time to work them.

I have not observed much evidence of Indian occupancy along the river from Rubel Creek south to Commerce. However, the Indians did frequent

this region. The petroglyph rock Mason Emerson and I discovered about one-half mile north of Commerce is positive evidence of that. These Little Chain rock carvings include a snake, an eagle and a fish; clan symbols used by the Shawnees, and possibly by prehistoric Indians, too.

In addition, we know that the Indians of this region made use of the Little Chain area quartzite in manufacturing their large implements, such as spades and hoes; also, that the Middle Mississippian Indians used the white pigments at Chalk Bluff to decorate some of their better pottery.

The Woodland Indians also occupied the southern edge of the Scott County hills, especially the area to the west of Highway N. There are a number of Woodland Indian campsites there, one of which is located on a low ridge only a short distance west of the Highway N and Highway E intersection.

The Indians of the Mississippian Culture--early, middle and late--on the other hand, tended to confine their villages and farming activities to the sandy ridge areas of the south and southwest sections of the county.

Lewis W. Bean, who, in 1904, surveyed the county's Indian mound sites for Louis Houck, reported he found 4,292 mounds. Field inspections that I have made indicate, though, that an appreciable number of Mr. Bean's mounds were actually natural ridges or other mound-like formations that had indeed been inhabited by the Indians, but not built by them.

As a specific example: Mr. Bean listed "six mounds, many relics, images and flint rock" found on the NW¼ of Section 15, Township 27N, Range 13E. What Mason Emerson and I found when we inspected this

site was hillock-type sandy ridges sparsely sprinkled with Middle Mississippian-type potsherds and fragments of stone artifacts. The ridges in no way resembled mounds, and quite obviously were natural formations resulting from the actions of wind and water in bygone ages.

The Mississippian Indians' fondness for the sandy ridges would appear to have resulted from the character of their principal occupation, which was that of farming. Corn was their most important crop, and in order to plant it, they had first to dig up the fields with clumsy stone hoes. According to pictures drawn in 1564 by the French artist Le Moyne, the hoe wielders were followed by other Indians with canes, with which they made holes an appropriate distance apart, and then the Indian women came along next with baskets of seed corn, which they dropped in the holes.

This was not a mode of farming that could be followed in the heavy soils of the lowlands or the tree-covered, root-matted soils of the hill section of the county.

What natural vegetation there was on the sandy ridges of the lowlands, had been, in large part, destroyed, as we learn from Father Vivier, who visited this area in 1750; by the Indian's practice of setting fires in the autumn that destroyed most of the young trees and other ground cover, leaving the friable sandy loam soils of these ridges in a condition that made them relatively bare and easily cultivated, even with the crudest of stone implements.

The Mississippian Indians also raised squash, beans, pumpkins, potatoes and tobacco; crops that required, at least in some instances, even more cultivation than corn.

The character of their houses and temples probably influenced their selection of lowland sites, too. The walls of these were built of mud-covered cane and the roofs were thatched with the tall grass that grew along edges of the swamp areas.

Exploration of the mounds and earthworks of the Mississippian Indians began at an early date, but did not become a large-scale commercial business until the 1870s. Displays of SE. Missouri Indian pottery and artifacts at the World's Fair held in Philadelphia in 1876 aroused the interest of collectors, especially those in the northeastern states. What followed is described in the 12th (1894) Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

"In 1879 and 1880 the people in the neighborhood of Charleston, Mo., discovered that the pottery in which the mounds of this region seem to have been unusually rich had a considerable commercial value. A regular mining fever at once broke out and spread so rapidly that in some instances as many as twenty-five or thirty men, women, and children could be seen digging for pottery in one field at the same time."

The harvest they reaped must have been tremendous, and one might add, from the viewpoints of the scientist and historian, tragic; for everything other than the unbroken pots, was discarded without notice, and of course no written records were kept or photographs made, and the pots themselves were dispersed into hundreds of now unknown collections throughout the northeast.

Something of the richness of these early finds is made apparent when we note that Beckwith reported that he found 300 pots in one Mississippi County mound; while Potter ("Archaeological Remains in Southeastern Missouri," 1880) told of two burial mounds,near Diehlstadt, in Scott County, where, over a period of years, some 800 to 1,000 fine "specimens of pottery" had been dug up by various individuals and groups.

The only important collection of this material that was kept in Southeast Missouri appears to have been that amassed by Thomas Beckwith. This, according to Mr. Beckwith ("The Indian or Mound Builder," 1910) and others, originally comprised about 10,000 pieces. In 1913 Mr. Beckwith gave this collection to Southeast Missouri University, where almost nine-tenths of it appears to have disappeared. For, according to James Parker, present curator of the college museum--as quoted in an article published in the Dec. 8, 1976 issue of the Southeast Missourian--the museum now has only 1,100 pieces of the orignal 10,000-item Beckwith collection.

And unfortunately some of the collection's most interesting pieces seem to be among those that have disppeared. These, as described by Mr. Beckwith in his 1913 book, were "a water bottle with human head on frog; water bottle, human figure with shawl on head; water bottle, bald-headed woman; water bottle supported by three human figures in a squatting position, body of pot painted red, neck striped with black rings; bottle supported by three men in kneeling position, bottle painted red; bowl,4 heads on sides, rattles in each; 11-inch stone pipe with carved figure of a man, sitting, with pipe bowl and stem on his back; nude carved figure of woman, sitting, 9½ inches high, with pipe bowl on stomach and stem on back; pot in the form of an

Indian moccasin; a head resembling that of a Negro; spools for holding thread; numerous rattles, some in the form of human heads; fan handles perforated for the insertion of feathers, and numerous small bowls, which so resembled Roman and other ancient grease lamp bowls that Mr. Beckwith surmised that the Indians might have used them for that purpose.

When W.B. Potter, Edward Evers and their associates from the St. Louis Academy of Science made their investigations of the Sandy Woods walled village and mound site near Diehlstadt in 1876-1878("Contributions to the Archaeology of Missouri," Salem, Mass., 1880), they ~~found~~ made a number of interesting finds and observations, from which the following is abstracted.

They describe it as "a well preserved settlement composed of a group of nine mounds and a large number of circular depressions (house sites), enclosed within a wall and ditch.

"The wall at present is 2 feet 6 inches in height and 7 feet in width at its base. At the southern end of the east wall the height is 3 feet 6 inches. The ditch on the outside of the wall is about 7 feet wide and ranges in depth from 1 foot 6 inches to 3 feet. The principal mound is rectangular. It is 250 feet long and from 16 to 18 feet high. The surface is quite regular and covered with numerous fragments of rude bricks of burned clay, containing impressions of grass and straw."

"The mound next in size is 20 feet high and 100 feet in diameter at its base."

Three of the mounds are described as burial mounds, from two of which previous excavators had obtained ~~the proximity~~ before mentioned 800 to 1,000 pots.

"A large number of human bodies were buried in these mounds, and apparently without any systematic arrangement. A few were found in

a sitting or kneeling posture, but most of them were extended at full length; some on their backs, some on their faces, and others again on their right or left sides. There were layers of bodies, with six inches to one foot of dry earth between the layers. The skulls and large bones were remarkably well preserved--quite soft when first taken out, but became strong and hard when dried. From 100 to 200 bodies had been buried in each of these mounds."

"The circular depressions (house sites) have an average depth of about two feet and a width of about 30 feet. In the center, and occasionaly at one side of these depressions, some 15 inches below the present surface, a square of burned clay 30 by 25 inches, is usually found. Small pieces of charcoal and fragments of charred bones are usually found on these hearths."

Dr. Edward Evers in his paper on "The Ancient Pottery of Southeastern Missouri," said that "all of this pottery is made of a dark, somewhat grayish clay, mixed with sand and shells in varying proportions. None of the pottery is glazed. Most of the vessels are plain black; in some of the ornamented pieces, the ornamentation is molded in the clay, but does not differ in color from the rest of the vessel. In many of the ornamental specimens the decoration is painted in red, white or black. The paint is not burnt into the clay, but simply laid on, and is very apt to scale off or to separate on washing, so that great care is necessary to preserve the decoration."

By the time Gerard Fowke (1908) made his cursory survey of the area, few Scott County village or mound sites remained unlooted. His opinion, at that time, was that only two, both located in the Vanduser area, still contained enough material to warrant scientific investigation.

A recent field trip to the Diehlstatdt area revealed that the St. Louis Academy of Science's fortified village site had been destroyed a few years ago by land-leveling operations. Two large mounds, however, are still in existence in that area. Examination of these and other sandy ridge sites between Between Benton and Diehlstadt also provided a representative collection of potsherds that revealed a hitherto unknown fact.

Basically, what my associates, Jerome Hirtz, John Owen and I discovered on examining these sherds, was that the exteriors of a surprising number--perhaps one-third of them--bore cord impressions. The other two-thirds or so were smooth or incised surface pieces, some of which were sand tempered, and some shell tempered. Most of the latter were either light gray or pale pink in color. Some of the sherds featured effigies and incised patterns, both of which appeared more typical of the Early Mississippian Hopewell Culture than of the Middle Mississippi.

On the other hand, potsherds collected by Mason Emerson and myself from sites on the west side of the county north of Vanduser, included not a single example of cord-marked pottery, or of a piece incised in the Hopewell manner. And in a subsequent conversation with Lee Cook, who has investigated numerous sites in the lowland area south of Oran, we learned that he, too, had noticed a complete absence of cord-marked pottery.

Mr. Cook's collection of pottery obtained at the sites south of Oran is typical Middle Mississipian, dark gray in color, and in most cases either made in the shape of an animal or bearing a human or animal effigy.

The walled and moated village and associated mounds, plus the Hopewellian type potsherds, suggest that the Indians who occupied the southeastern part of Scott County came into this area from the major Hopwellian Culture center in southern Ohio. Such a colonization, even at that early date, could have been accomplished with little difficulty, as it would have involved only a relatively short voyage on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

The Indians who occupied the county's southwestern lowland, however, probably came into the area from southern sites, perhaps originally from as far away as Mississippi or Louisiana, gradually spreading north from there, via perhaps the New Madrid-Caruthersville area, to Scott County.

When Hernando de Soto and his small army came onto the southern end of Crowleys Ridge in the summer of 1541, they found these farming Indians still occupying the region. One village specifically mentioned "contained about 400 dwellings," and the bank of the adjacent river was "covered, as far as the eye could reach, with fields of corn, interspersed with orchards of fruit trees."

Possibly an exaggeration, but some of the tribes he encountered did have sufficient surpluses of corn to feed his army and horses through the winters they spent on this continent. So their farming operations had to be of fairly significant proportions.

By the time the French explorers and the trappers, hunters and settlers came along, they were no longer here. In fact, the only Indians that by then were frequenting Scott County were hunters from other parts of the region, and they do not appear to have ever established anything in the nature of a permanent village within the present borders of the county.

EARLY SETTLERS IN SCOTT COUNTY

Likely there were explorers, hunters, trappers, and maybe even squatters, who came into what is now Scott County before 1785. But, if so, they do not appear to have left any clear evidence of their presence.

The first definite evidence of settlements is provided by the Spanish land grants dating from about 1791 to Dec. 20, 1803. These totaled only about 57, and even they are not altogether reliable indicators, since, in some instances, these grants were made to absentee land speculators who never actually resided on the tracts they had claimed.

Nevertheless, these grants, although relatively few in number, are important enough to warrant our listing them here, since they do tell us the names of the first legal owners of land in what was to become Scott County. Also, by research, it has been possible, in many cases, to determine whether these grantees were merely speculators, or real settlers on the lands they claimed.

SPANISH LAND GRANTS ISSUED WITHIN THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES OF SCOTT COUNTY

Grants Issued for Tracts Between Cape La Croix Creek and the Present Site of Commerce:

Survey Number	Claimant's Name	Acreage	Year
272	Richard J. Waters under James Ryan	358	1790s

Neither Ryan nor Waters appear to have ever occupied this claim. Waters was a medical doctor, merchant and land speculator who came to New Madrid with Col. Morgan in 1789. Ryan came to the New Madrid area in 1791. He also had a claim in the Bayou St. Thomas area, which he sold in 1794.

Survey No.	Claimant's Name	Acreage	Year
2197	Morse Williams under Leeman & James Hodges	600	Unknown

This grant included what is now known as Gray's Point.

197	John & Robert Giboney under Pierre Godair	205	1798

None of these claimants appear to have occupied this tract. The Giboneys, in fact, took over a part of the Hugh White grant, on Ramsey Creek, just north of old Ancell. Many of the family, including a son-in-law, Lieutenant Governor Wilson Brown, were buried in a family cemetery located on this latter tract.

226	William Ross----------	357	about 1796

The Ross grant was below Gray's Point, but the point nevertheless came to be known as Ross' Point, and in 1817 John Ross had a ferry in operation there.

794	Edmond Hogan under Alexander Milliken	442	1797

Milliken never occupied this grant, and Hogan did so for only a short time. In 1803 Hogan's claim was purchased by John Baldwin. Baldwin and his family resided on the north half of this tract until his death in the 1850s. On August 12, 1840, the land south of present Highway N was sold to George W. Sparhawk, and the river landing on the line between these two tracts was consequently known for a short time as Sparhawk's Landing. Then, when Baldwin's son-in-law, John T. Harris, began operating a ferry-boat there, it became known as Baldwin's Landing. In 1867 John Daugherty acquired the Baldwin land and the landing then became known as Daugherty's Landing.

Ignatius McKinley was the next owner. A 15-acre townsite was laid out, and the town planned for it was named Manning, and the landing, of course, acquired a new name--Manning's Landing, which it has retained to this day.

Only one lot was ever sold in the town of Manning. A frame building housing a store and postoffice was erected on this lot. Frederick Heiling and others operated these businesses from 1898 to 1903.

No Spanish land grants were ever issued for riverfront land between the present Thebes railroad bridge and Commerce. Numerous grants, however, were made for riverside tracts between Commerce and the southeastern corner of the county.

Survey No.	Claimant's Name	Acreage	Year
321	Thomas Waters under William Smith	408	1797

Waters did not buy the Smith claim until Jan. 11, 1805.

215 & 262	John Johnson (or Johnston)	242	1800

If Johnson occupied his Commerce area grant, it was but for a short time. In fact, he appears to have resided on a grant in the Bayou de Bouef area east of the present site of Charleston, Mo. Then, after a short residence there, he removed to a plantation in the State of Louisiana.

Tracts granted--north to south--along Doolan Chute, which then separated Powers or Big Island from the mainland.

Survey No.	Claimant	Acreage	Year
198	Lemuel Chaney, or Cheney	204	1797
2207	James Brady under Benjamin Rose	304	1797

Rose, shortly after entering this claim, returned to Kentucky, where he was arrested for debt. As a consequence he sold this claim to James Brady, who occupied it about 1800. The north line of Brady's claim was the dividing line between Cape Girardeau County and New Madrid County during much of the Missouri Territorial period. Benjamin Rose later bought the Giboney's Survey 197 claim, and resided on it for a number of years.

468	William Byrd	170	1802
1841	Bartholomew Cousin	652	1802

Cousin never resided on any of his numerous Scott County grants. He came to Cape Girardeau in 1795, and resided there the remainder of his life. He was a

man trained in the sciences, and consequently was more careful about his land surveys than most of his relatively ill-informed contemporaries. He, almost alone, marked his claim boundaries with corner stones, and I have had a reliable report that one of these on Powers Island bore a Spanish inscription, which, unfortunately, no one ever bothered to translate.

Claims Immediately West of the Doolan Chute Grants

Survey No.	Claimant	Acreage	Year
133	Dr. Robert J. Waters under David Devoir	170	1802
203	Bartholomew Cousins	1,000	

The high number of this survey indicates that it was a New Madrid Earthquake certificate grant purchased by Cousin from the original recipient.

48 & 1847	Bartholomew Cousin	652	1802
237	James Currin under Jacob Myers	297	1802

On Doolan Chute

7	James Currin under Josiah Quimby	170	1802

Currin resided on these tracts, owned nine slaves, and was a member of the first grand jury selected for duty in the Cape Girardeau District.

61	Curtis Wilbourn (Probably an earthquake certificate grant)	475	
	Charles Findley under Reazon Bowie	255	before 1800

Reazon Bowie is thought to have resided on a grant near Fish Lake, rather than on his Scott County land. About 1802 he and his family moved to Louisiana, where he eventually became a wealthy sugar planter. Findley, in 1805, established a ferry on his Scott County land, and a road is said even then to have run from the Findley landing to New Madrid

	Charles Findley under William Patterson	382	before 1800

GRANTS BELOW POWERS ISLAND

	Charles Findley under Richard Green	297	1801
34	Sergeant John Ordway, assignee of Alexander Milliken	464	1801

(More on Sergeant Ordway later.)

Survey No.	Claimant	Acreage	Year
2848	Dr. Samuel Dorsey under Samuel Adams	640	

Dorsey was a resident of New Madrid.

Powers Island Grants

3257	Bartholomew Cousin	3,993	
3244	Dr. Samuel Dorsey	680	

These could be New Madrid earthquake certificate land grants, but there is a possibility, too, that the Dorsey and Cousin grants, which became involved in a great deal of litigation, could have had delayed surveys, or second surveys, and thus have received higher numbers.

We know that Cousin grabbed all of the grants he could just before the United States assumed control of the area, and consequently might not have had time to complete his surveys of these late grants.

Cousin, incidentally, died in 1824, but litigation over his land claims continued for many years after his death.

At any rate, by one means or another, he acquired a total of 6,297 acres of land grants in what is now Scott County.

Two Scott City Area Grants

188	Hugh White (later sold to the Giboney's)	680	1800

White, according to Houck, came to this area from Cave de Roque in the Territory of Indiana.

2198	Andrew Ramsey under Charles Bunch	255	

Bunch was a resident of New Madrid, having settled there about 1800.

Along Commerce-Benton Road

1133			
1014	Daniel Mullins (later became county ppor farm)	640	

Along Benton-Morley Road

638	Capt. Charles Friend	351	about 1797
139	Jonas Friend	640	1797
639	John Friend	174	1797

Survey No.	Claimant	Acreage	Year
622	Robert Trotter	178	
1087	James Trotter	170	1801

Both of the Trotter grants are at least partly within the present city limits of Sikeston.

32	James Riley	170	1802
25	Francis Pacquette	272	1794

Pacquette was originally a native of Montreal, Canada.

623	John Baptiste Millet	340	1791

Millet was a native of Canada, but came here from Vincennes, Ind. Terr.

1109	James Faris	107	1800
635	Richard Waters & John Waters under Solomon Armstrong	200	
689	Louis Sejourner under Dr. Elisha Jackson	170	

Sejourner was engaged in trading with the Indians. Jackson was the first doctor to arrive in the New Madrid District.

1043	Joseph Michel	153	
255	Joseph Michel under Benjamin Myers	170	

Myers was a carpenter at New Madrid in 1793. Michel was a land speculator and merchant, also owned one of the first horse mills in the New Madrid District.

159	Peter Lovell under John Baptiste Gobeau	204	1797

Gobeau was an interpreter while at New Madrid.

254	Joseph Michel under Jacob Myers	170	

Jacob Myers was a carpenter and tavern keeper at New Madrid. He and Benjamin Myers came to New Madrid with Morgan in 1789.

JOHN ORDWAY

John Ordway was one of the four sergeants in command of the company of soldiers who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their famous 1803-1806 exploring expedition to the Pacific Coast.

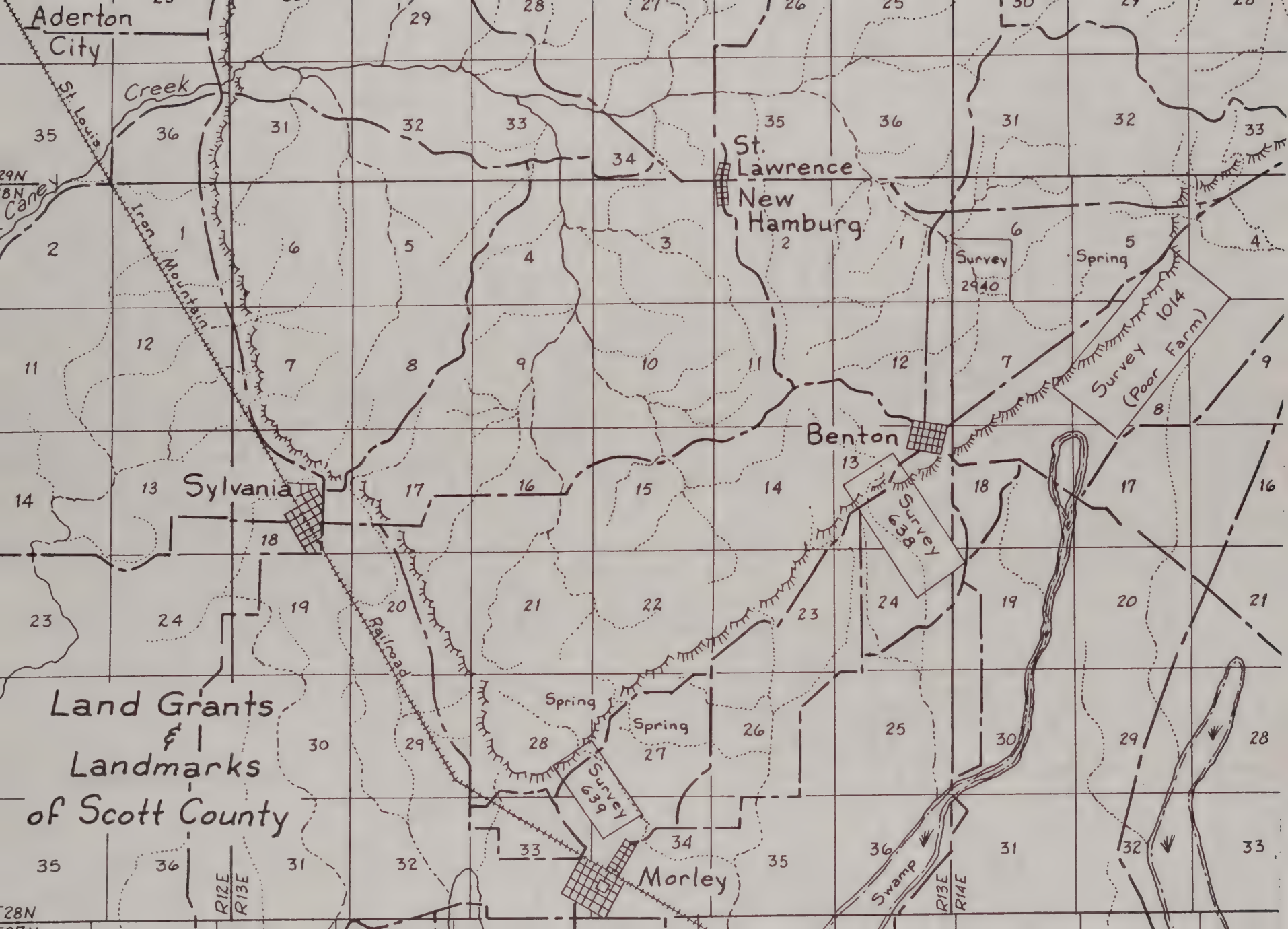
Ordway kept a detailed journal while with the expedition. This was sold to Captain Clark, who loaned it to Nicholas Biddle for use

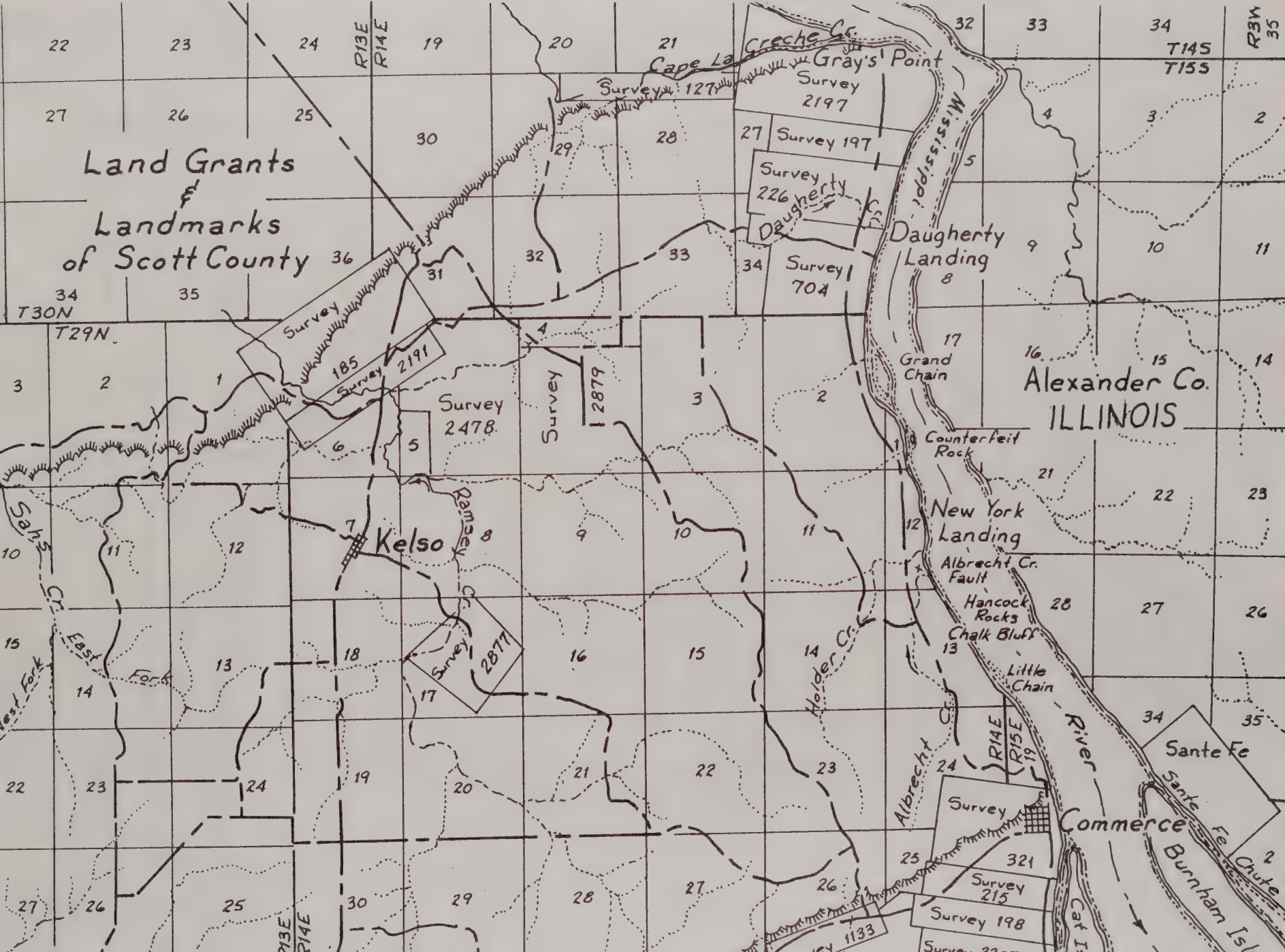
in preparing the official account of the expedition. Later, as it was Clark's personal property by right of purchase, it was returned to Clark instead of being, as was the case with Lewis and Clark's own journals, deposited in the archives of the American Philosophical Society. But in 1903, when historians at last gained access to Clark's papers, the Ordway journal, estimated to contain about 100,000 words, was found to be missing. It seems, too, that Clark, whose grammar and spelling were not the best, employed Ordway to transcribe his notes into the official journals of the expedition.

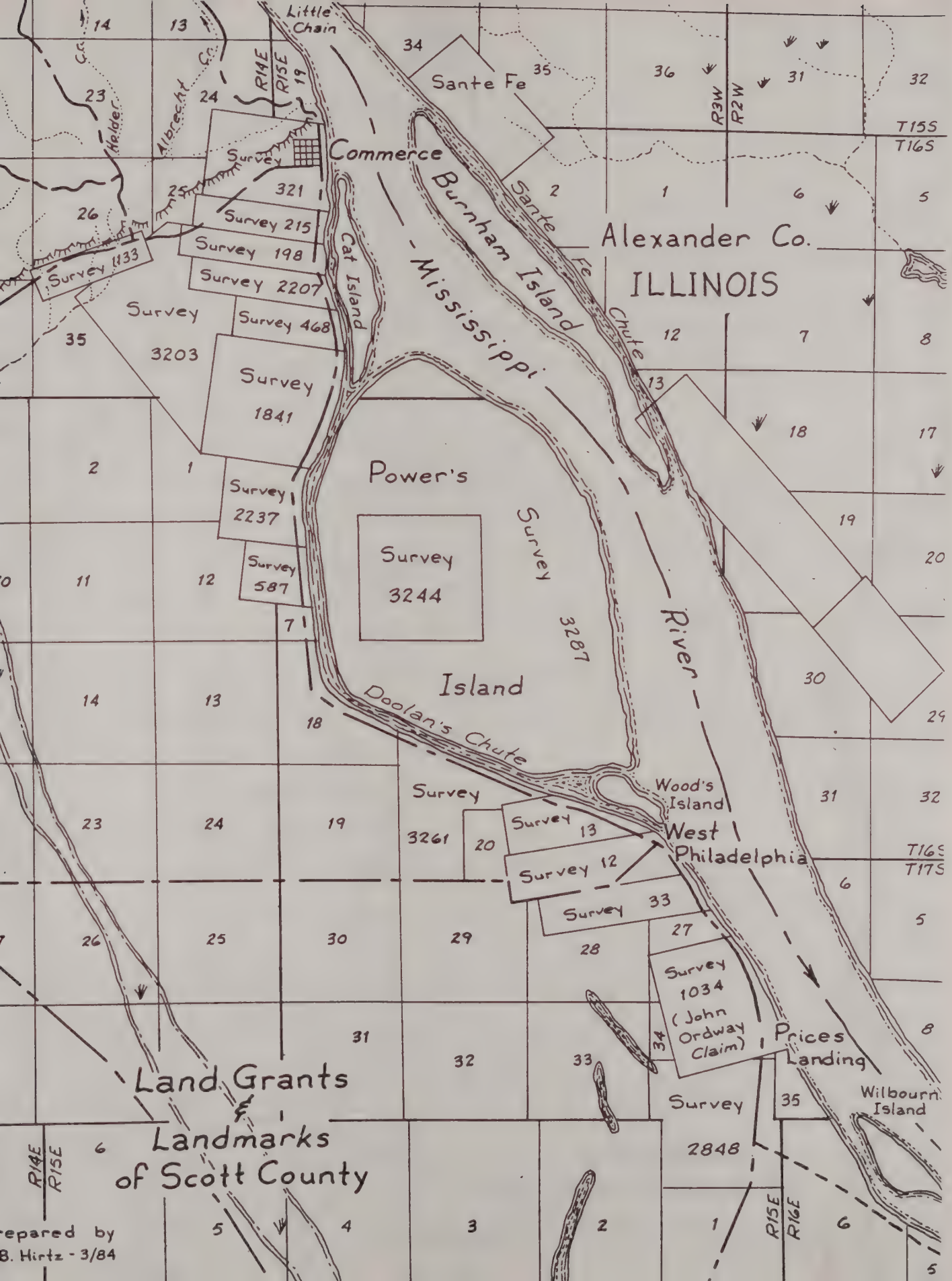
The Alexander Milliken land grant, Survey No. 1034, which Ordway purchased on Nov. 18, 1807, includes almost a mile of riverfront. The date of this purchase, incidentally, was only a little over a year after his Sept. 23, 1806 arrival in St. Louis, on completion of the expedition. Ordway also purchased (Oct. 15, 1808) 200 arpens of land from Thomas & John Wellborn, part of the Curtis Wellborn grant, Survey 3261.

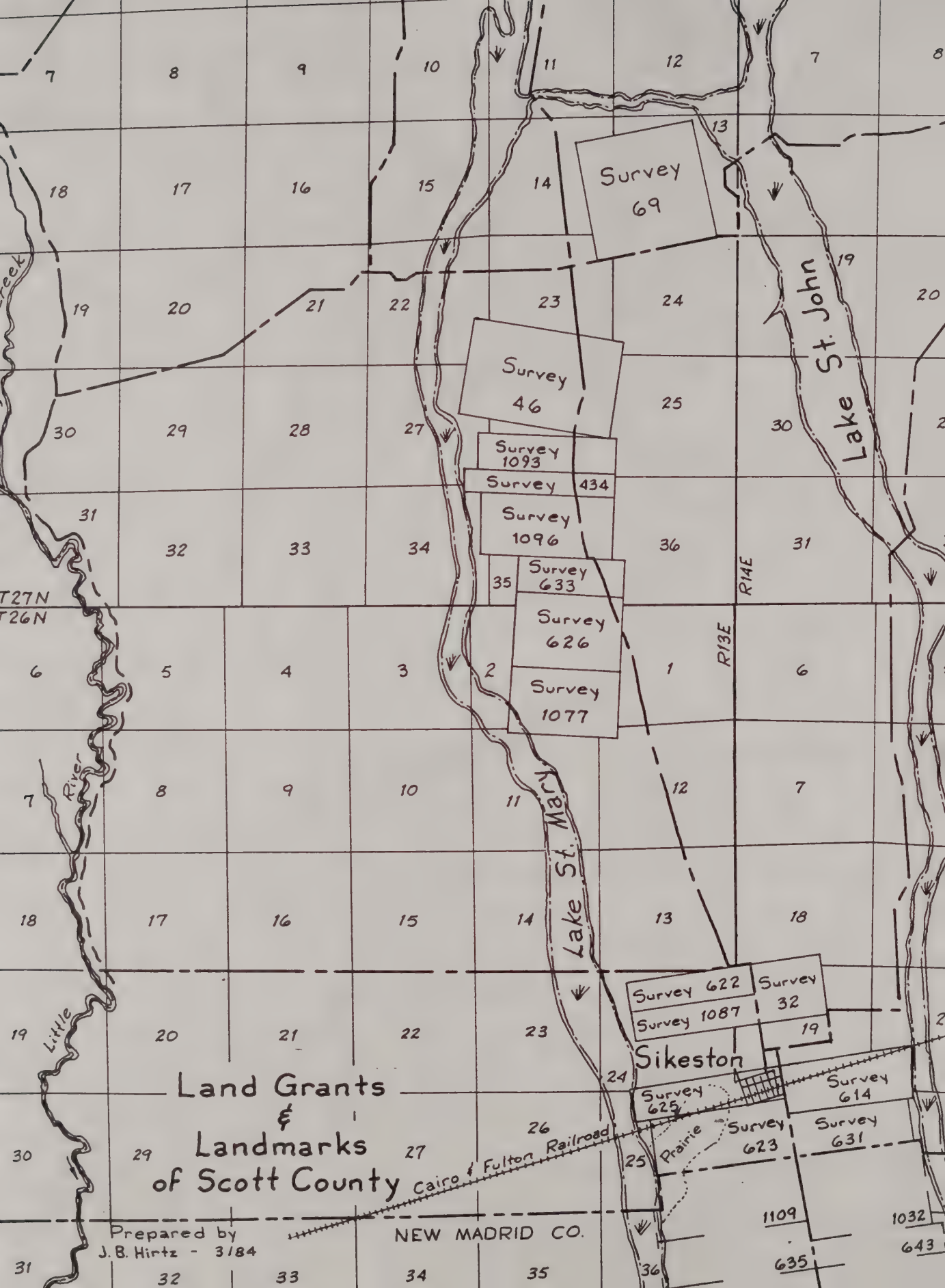
Houck says that Ordway lived on this land until he died, but does not give his grounds for so believeing. County records are not clear on the matter, but indicate that he did continue to own land here at least until 1840. But he also owned land in New Madrid County. Most of this, though, he sold in 1811, but did retain one tract until 1844. The New Madrid documents show that his wife was named Elizabeth, and that she did not know how to write, as all of these were signed with "her mark."

Cape Girardeau County records also show a Mary Ordway buying land from John Ordway on May 22, 1810, and the heirs of a William Ordway buying land on Nov. 11, 1813. Both of these tracts were in what is now Scott County, and near Ordway's Survey 1034 tract.


Aderton City
Creek
St. Louis
Caney
Iron Mountain
St. Lawrence
New Hamburg
Survey 2940
Spring
Survey 1014 (Poor Farm)
Benton
Sylvania
Survey 638
Railroad
Spring
Spring
Survey 639
Morley
Swamp
R12E
R13E
R13E
R14E
T29N
T28N
Land Grants & Landmarks of Scott County


Land Grants
&
Landmarks
of Scott County
T30N
T29N
R13E
R14E
R15E
R3W
T14S
T15S
Survey 127
Cape La Creche Cr.
Gray's Point
Survey 2197
Survey 197
Survey 226
Daugherty Cr.
Daugherty Landing
Survey 704
Mississippi
Grand Chain
Alexander Co.
ILLINOIS
Counterfeit Rock
New York Landing
Albrecht Cr. Fault
Hancock Rocks
Chalk Bluff
Little Chain
Survey 185
Survey 2191
Survey 2478
Survey 2879
Survey 2877
Kelso
Ramsey Cr.
Sahs Cr.
East Fork
West Fork
Holder Cr.
Albrecht Cr.
Sante Fe
Sante Fe Chute
Survey 321
Survey 215
Survey 198
Survey 1133
Commerce
Burnham Isl
River


Land Grants & Landmarks of Scott County
Alexander Co.
ILLINOIS
Mississippi River
Burnham Island
Cat Island
Doolan's Chute
Santa Fe Chute
Little Chain
Commerce
Sante Fe
Power's Island
Survey 3244
Survey 3287
Survey 3203
Survey 1841
Survey 2237
Survey 587
Survey 321
Survey 215
Survey 198
Survey 2207
Survey 468
Survey 1133
Survey 3261
Survey 13
Survey 12
Survey 33
Survey 1034 (John Ordway Claim)
Survey 2848
Wood's Island
West Philadelphia
Prices Landing
Wilbourn Island
R14E
R15E
R16E
R3W
R2W
T15S
T16S
T17S
Prepared by
B. Hirtz - 3/84


Survey 69
Survey 46
Survey 1093
Survey 434
Survey 1096
Survey 633
Survey 626
Survey 1077
Survey 622
Survey 1087
Survey 32
Sikeston
Survey 625
Survey 614
Survey 623
Survey 631
Lake St. John
Lake St. Mary
Little River
Prairie
Cairo & Fulton Railroad
NEW MADRID CO.
T27N
T26N
R14E
R13E
Land Grants & Landmarks of Scott County
Prepared by J. B. Hirtz - 3184

SPANISH LAND GRANTS: HOW OBTAINED

It should be pointed out here that the Spanish grants made by district Lieutenant Governors or local Commandants were incomplete titles until the claims were surveyed and the survey and the claim approved by the Governor General of the province, who was stationed at New Orleans. Usually the claimant met the two first requirements but neglected the latter, as communicating with New Orleans was a difficult matter in those days.

As a consequence, it was found after this territory was acquired by the United States that only thirteen of the numerous land grants made in Upper Louisiana had actually been completed in the prescribed manner.

A series of U.S. Land Commission Boards attempted to untangle this mess over a period of twenty-five years, 1808 to 1833. As a result, ownership of a few of the Scott County grants remained in doubt until 1835, when the final report was published.

One such was the Alexander Milliken grant (Survey 794), which was sold to Edmond Hogan about 1798, and by Hogan, to John Baldwin.

The Board's ruling indicated that this land was "located in Tywappity Bottom," although, as we have seen, it was actually in the hills

some five miles north of Commerce. Moreover, the text of this ruling reflects this confusion to an even greater extent.

"John Baldwin, claiming 400 arpens of land:

James Wilborn, who (May 11, 1833) is about 53 years old, has known the said John Baldwin, between 35 and 40 years. The said John Baldwin moved to the district of Cape Girardeau, in the fall of 1803, and settled in Tywappity bottom. He (Wilborn) knows that the said John cleared land in the fall of 1803 and set out a nursery of fruit trees; he also lived on said land at the same time. The next season, 1804, he planted corn and raised a crop. The said John was a married man; had a wife and four children at the time he made said improvement. The said John Baldwin has lived there ever since, and now resides, in the district of Cape Girardeau."

The residence and crop testimony was brought out because, in addition to the legal procedures previously mentioned as necessary to secure title to a Spanish land grant, the grantee or his assigns had to swear loyalty to the Spanish King of Spain, clear part of his grant land, and build a house on it within a year and a day of the time he had received his grant. Baldwin had complied with all of the requirements, except that of final approval from the Governor General of the Province, and that probably was impossible in his case, since he acquired the grant only a short time before the territory was transferred to the United States.

James Wilborn (or Wellborn) obviously had to be a neighbor of Baldwin, yet historians list him and his brothers, John and Thomas, as residents of Tywappity Bottoms. Nevertheless, an 1850 plat map in the county recorder's office show John and Charles Wilborn owning land within a couple of miles or so of the Baldwin grant.

This confusion as to the geographical boundaries of "Tywappity Bottoms" has led historians to mistake the location of the first Protestant Church organized west of the Mississippi.

David Greene, a Baptist minister from Kentucky, organized this church in 1805, and according to Houck, Douglass, Floyd C. Shoemaker and others, its location was the Tywappity Bottom.

T.H. Jenkins, however, in his "Old Bethel Church, 1806-1807," published in 1906, tells a somewhat different story. According to him, the Rev. David Green, when he came here in 1805 "stopped first among the settlers of Tywappity Bottom, near where Commerce, Scott County, now stands. Here he found some Baptists. At that time Henry Cockerham, a slave holder, lived here and owned a large plantation. Later he became a preacher and was pastor of Tywappity church in 1816. William Ross, born in North Carolina in 1860 (1760?), brother of Eld. Reuben Ross (pioneer preacher of Tennessee and Kentucky), located here soon after the Revolutionary War; and Tywappity was also called Ross' Point, or Ferry. Here also lived Jno. Baldwin, Esq., a Baptist of some prominence. Elder Green found a few Baptist families in this bottom in 1805 and organized a church of some eight or ten members. After a few years Peck says, 'This feeble body became extinct, but was reorganized in 1809, or another church occupied its place, to which Elder Edwards ministered in 1817'."

Jenkins also says that in 1824 the Tywappity church was one of the constituent churches of Cape Girardeau Association, and at that time had only eleven members.

We know that in 1805 William Ross and John Baldwin were not living in the lowlands south of the present site of Commerce, but had claims between the present site of Thebes Bridge and Grays Point, then known as Ross' Point.

Henry Cockerham lived on the mainland side of Doolan's Chute one mile south of Commerce. This was a 170-acre tract (Survey 468), originally claimed by William Byrd, and sold by him to James Currin, who, in turn, sold it to Cockerham. Cockerham sold it to James Pirtle, and at the time Pirtle sold it in 1824, there was an orchard, house, mill and other improvements on it. Cockerham purchased this land in late 1803, 1804 or early in 1805, as he was not listed in the 1803 census.

By fiat of General Wilkinson the boundary of New Madrid District was extended north to the middle of the "Big Swamp" between the Scott County hills and Cape Girardeau, as of June 5, 1805, thus making the present Grays Point area officially a part of that district's Tywappity township; which it remained until the following year (1806), when another realignment of district boundaries placed nearly all of what is now Scott County in Cape Girardeau District's Tywappity Township. This 1806 boundary remained in effect until 1813, when the dividing line was moved northward to near Commerce, with the future site of Commerce, however, still remaining in Cape Girardeau District.

Thus it will be seen that, at the time Rev. Greene was organizing his so-called "Tywappity Bottom church," the Grays Point area was actually a part of New Madrid's Tywappity township. Hence, in a sense this geographical description was correct, though misleading, because of the word "bottom" being attached to it.

In fact all of the confusion concerning the boundaries of Tywappity has been caused by not differentiating between the hill and lowland sections of Tywappity. A French map maker of 1790 did indeed turn the tables by indicating the "Heights of Tayoumapely" and leaving the lowland part unlabeled; and by doing so, raising the suspicion that the name originally applied only to the hill section of what was to become Scott County.

Hamtramck's 1788 "Zewapeta" of "30 or 40 families" almost certainly was at the present site of Commerce, and not in the lowlands below or south of that town. Even as late as 1824 Zadok Cramer, in his book, "The Navigator; Containing Directions for Navigating the Monongahela, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers," mentions "the growing settlement of Tyawapatia," and places its location four miles downstream from the Grand Chain, which is the precise distance today between the southern end of the Grand Chain and the town of Commerce.

THE TERRITORIAL PERIOD, 1804-1821

Upper Louisiana, including the future site of Scott County, was officially transferred to the United States in ceremonies at St. Louis on March 9, 1804. William Henry Harrison, governor of the Territory of Indiana, was appointed temporary governor of Upper Louisiana.

The Act of 1805 created the Territory of Louisiana and defined the character and powers of its government. Under its terms, a territorial governor, General James Wilkinson, was appointed. Unfortunately he was not only a tactless man, but also, as we now know, a scoundrel and a traitor.

Prior to his appointment, the boundaries of the Cape Girardeau and New Madrid Districts had remained approximately where they had been during the Spanish regime, which was an east-west line from the Mississippi River at approximately the latitude of the present town of Blodgett. Disputes between the commandants at Cape Girardeau and New Madrid led to this line being surveyed, with its eastern terminus, on this occasion, being located near the southern tip of Powers Island. In 1805 Governor Wilkinson arbitrarily moved it to the center of the lowlands now occupied by the Diversion Channel. This caused such inconvenience that, in 1806, the boundary was shifted back south to its earlier location.

In 1807 Meriwether Lewis was appointed governor, replacing the corrupt and abrasive Wilkinson. But almost before Lewis could bring order out chaos, he was murdered (1809), while on his way to Washington.

Benjamin Howard succeeded Lewis as Governor of the Territory of Louisiana, and held the office until after the Territory of Missouri was formed on June 4, 1812. In 1813 he resigned and was replaced as governor of the new territory by William Clark, who held the office until 1821, when Missouri became a state.

The new Missouri territorial government realigned the boundaries between the Cape Girardeau and New Madrid Districts. This time the eastern end of the line contacted the Mississippi at a point near Commerce, and from thence went in a southwesterly direction across what is now Scott County to approximately the present location of the town of Vanduser.

All of this change is treated in some detail, because this incessant change, both in government and boundaries, tended to make land acquisition and transaction of business with the government more difficult, and hence tended to discourage new settlers from coming to this area.

In addition, transfer of this area to the United States had made questionable the titles to many of the Spanish land grants. Final rulings on many of these titles, in fact,were delayed until 1835.

Lack of public land surveys also tended to restrict settlement, as it was very difficult to describe the metes and bounds of a tract of land when only trees, streams and the like could be used to define boundaries.

An Act passed on April 26, 1816 providing for the appointment of a surveyor for the lands of the United States in the Territories of Illinois and Missouri was the first move toward remedying this situation. However, even as late as 1827 some of the swamp lands on the western edge of Scott County had still not been surveyed, and the first deed now on record in the Recorder's Office at Benton that made use of sections, townships and ranges in identifying the tract being sold was dated March 3, 1828.

In view of the fact that many of the early deeds made use of the old French land measure, the arpent, it would seem useful here to define this term in relation to acres.

One arpent equalled 6/7 of an acre, 100 were equivalent to 85 1/3 acres, and 750 arpents equalled 640 acres, or a mile square block now termed a section.

Still another factor slowing settlement in this area was the lack of a regional federal land office. This was not remedied until 1818, when such an office was established at Jackson, which, after 1814 was the seat of government for Cape Girardeau District or County. This change of the seat of government, resulting from uncertainties involving the legality of the Lorimier land grants, also made it somewhat more difficult for citizens of the present Scott County to transact business with their local government, as they now had to travel about ten miles more than they did when the seat of government was located at Cape Girardeau.

The New Madrid County seat of government was moved, too, during this period, purportedly because of the ravages of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812. However, records at the New Madrid courthouse indicate a hiatus of only about one month in the recording of county documents at the time these earthquakes were taking place.

The exact date Winchester, located about one quarter mile below the original town of Sikeston, and probably astride the present New Madrid-Scott County line, was established, seems to have been in 1814; or at least that appears to have been the approximate time county business began to be transacted there. It should be noted, though, that Conrad, in his "Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri," states that "when the County of New Madrid was organized in 1813, the commissioners appointed to

locate the seat of justice accepted 50 acres of land donated by Stephen Moss and Moses Hurley, about one-quarter mile from the present (1900) town of Sikeston in Scott County. The tract was surveyed and laid out as a town by Joseph Story, county surveyor, and was called Winchester. Public sales of lots were held Nov. 28, 1814, and again on December 21st of the same year. The money realized from the sales was used for the building of a jail, which was also used for the meeting place of the courts. This jail was completed in 1817 and was used until December, 1821, when Scott County was organized, at which time the seat of justice was removed to New Madrid."

Houck, Vol. III, History of Missouri, tells a slightly different story: "Winchester in 1812 was the county seat of New Madrid County. This old county seat, as well as some others--is now a cornfield. Winchester was one of three postoffices in the New Madrid area before 1820." Mail was delivered once a week, [illegible] from Cape Girardeau.

Among the earliest businesses established at Winchester were a store operated by Thomas Bartlett, and a tavern, which was run by Hartwell Baldwin. Others in business there were David Hunter, Mark H. Stallcup and Christopher Houts. Among those known to have bought lots in Winchester were Smith Brown, lots numbers 30 and 34, Aug. 31, 1816; Phillip Ross, lots 27, 28 and 37, Sept. 2, 1816, for which he paid $24; Daniel Sparks, lot 18, cornering on the public square, and lot 9 adjoining, Sept. 12, 1816, bought for $43; John L. Harker, lot 74, $10; Mark H. Stallcup, lots 10, 11, 14, 19 and 24, Jan. 29, 1817, $58.50; and a second purchase by Daniel and Sally Sparks, lot 17, Sept. 18, 1816, $36.

Others who bought lots in 1817 were Charles Lucas, Thomas Phillips, Isaac Ogden, and Richard H. Waters, described as "now living in Winchester."

Deeds indicate that these lots were one-half acre and "five poles" in size. The County Commissioners who sold them were Moses Shelby, Samuel

Phillips and William Montgomery.

The fact that these were "county commissioners," and that the county of New Madrid was not established until Dec. 3, 1813, tends to corroborate the 1814 date for the surveying and founding of Winchester as an organized town, although there may have been a trading post or other businesses in the area before that time.

On Sept. 28, 1822, a new countyseat site commission made up of Mark Stallcup, John Shanks and Thomas Bartlett, purchased from Prudence Peyroux, for $300, a tract of 50 acres "for the purpose of laying out thereon the town for the Seat of Justice of New Madrid County." This, of course, was preliminary to returning the county's seat of justice to near its old New Madrid site, and suggests that Winchester was not abandoned for that purpose until some time in 1823 or 1824.

The same process, of course, was underway in newly formed Scott County, where government from Winchester was being supplanted by that at the new seat of justice in Benton.

It is hard, at this late date, to assess the effects the New Madrid earthquakes had on what is now Scott County. Nevertheless, I have come to feel that these have been somewhat overestimated. Even the relocation of the New Madrid County seat of justice, which did not occur until two and one-half years after the last of the great shocks, may have been determined, at least to a considerable extent, by a desire for a more central location, since what is now Mississippi County and perhaps half of Scott County were then parts of New Madrid County.

Even the town of New Madrid itself, if we can trust contemporary reports, does not appear to have suffered catastrophically. Travellers, for example, reported that in 1808 it had about 30 houses, and in 1817, 29 houses. Some of the latter may have been built after the earthquakes; but this would appear doubtful, since Nuttall reported that frequent aftershocks were still being felt there in 1819, and this likely would have tended

to discourage new construction for at least a few years after the great quakes. The loss of the seat of government during this 1808-1817 period would also have tended to discourage new construction, perhaps even to a greater extent than the aftershocks.

Further shoring up of this contention is provided in the 8th, or 1814, edition of Zadok Cramer's "The Navigator," and the description therein of conditions along the Mississippi less than two years after the last of the major New Madrid earthquakes.

Cramer, for example, mentioned "the growing settlement of Tyawapita," now Commerce; Colonel Bird's residence opposite the mouth of the Ohio, apparently unharmed; no mention of any effects on the "250 feet perpendicular" bluffs at the Iron Banks; and at Wolf Island "containing 15,000 acres of first rate land, well timbered, having near its middle a beautiful prairie, high and dry, producing the finest grass for cattle. A Mr. James Hunter, the only man I ever knew who seemed to take pride in letting it be known that he was a professed gambler, is the only occupant of Wolf Island at present. He says he has on it 1,000 head of hogs, and a large stock of cattle, with whose beef and pork he supplies boats, barges, keels, & c. passing up and down the river, together with butter, milk, & c. I saw at his house a pair of wild geese, running with his common geese."

Wolf Island, mind you, was then 24 miles downstream below the mouth of the Ohio. And he does not mention earthquake damage until Island No. 10 is reached, some 57 miles on the river below our present Cairo. "This island and the right bank opposite it, shew the first evident marks of the effects of the earthquake which commenced December 16, 1811. The right bank for several miles above and below the island, appears to be several feet, about three or four, as near as I could judge from the adjoining land, lower than it formerly was. Many of the trees standing in all directions on the island, and particularly the willows on the willow point opposite it,

clearly evince the concussions of the earth." However, be it noted, the trees were still standing, although the river location and its deep, watersoaked alluvial and sand soil made this island extremely susceptible to earthquake damage.

Of Little Prairie, 102 miles below Cairo, his impressions were different. "This settlement is on the right bank. Having been much torn to pieces during the earthquake; the inhabitants have principally deserted it. The forest adjoining the town looks as if it had been in some desperate engagement, in which it had got much worsted in the battle, the trees standing in all directions and in great confusion."

John R. Freeman, "Earthquake Damage and Earthquake Insurance" sums up the New Madrid zone earthquake risk situation this way: The local severity of these earthquakes "should not be minimized," but "it appears probable that shock severe enough to seriously injure a good steel-frame and reinforced concrete modern office building, factory or residence, did not extend a hundred miles up or down the river, outside the soft wet bottom-lands."

Some of the accounts of events at the time of the earthquakes appear to have been not wholly factual. One such, that of Col. John Shaw, who said he "was in New Madrid, when nearly two thousand people of all ages, fled in terror from their falling dwellings, in that place and the surrounding country, and directed their course north about thirty miles to Tywappity Hill, on the western bank of the Mississippi, and about seven miles back from the river. This was the first high ground above New Madrid, and here the fugitives formed an encampment."

The numbers involved seem suspiciouly large, in view of the fact that the census of 1810 gave the population of all of New Madrid District as 3,165, although it then included all of southern Missouri below the 37th parallel of latitude and the bulk of what is now the state of Arkansas.

Doubtless there was an exodus of people at that time, but likely the numbers did not go beyond the hundreds. If his first high ground seven miles west of the Mississippi was accurate, they would have encamped on the hills northeast of Benton. And since they would have needed a ready supply of water, I surmised that their campsite might have been near a large spring, now dry, that once existed on the Louie Ledure farm. On site inspection, however, revealed no surviving evidence that there had once been such an encampment at that location.

Other significant springs along the southern rim of the Scott County hills that existed at that time were located east of the "Y" above Morley and at Jackson Hill about a mile west of Commerce. Perhaps they camped at one of these springs.

One of the factors determining the intensity of the surface effects of an earthquake is the depth of unconsolidated sediments at the site in question. On the basis of that, we can surmise that the effects of the New Madrid shocks of 1811-1812 were much less marked in the hill area of Scott County, where the depths to solid rock range from zero to about fifty feet. Depths around the hills at Chaffee, Oran and Commerce, run from 90 to 150 feet. Out in the lowlands at Morley and Sikeston, the depth ranges from about 300 to 730 feet at the latter place.

Some of the refugees from the New Madrid and Little Prairie areas probably settled permanently in the hill area of Scott County. I must confess, though, that I know of only two settlers who actually did so, and on examining the biographies in Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri, I found not a single reference in these to any of the subjects having come to Scott County because of the 1811-1812 earthquakes. What actually seems to have happened was that many of these refugees returned to their homes in the spring of 1812, only to find that most of their household furnishings, livestock, etc., had been stolen while they were absent.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKES OF 1811-1812

Only one person is positively known to have died from injuries sustained during the series of shocks known as the New Madrid earthquakes. This was a woman who was injured by a falling log and died some time afterwards. Another woman died of a heart attack, but her death had nothing to do with the detructiveness of these earthquakes. It has been surmised that some flatboatmen were drowned during these earthquakes, but if so, they were not subsequently missed or identified.

This astonishingly small loss of life is usually explained as due to the sparseness of population in the epicentral area and the supposed earthquake resistant nature of log cabin architecture.

The former is granted, but the latter seems questionable, when we consider that the log cabins of the period were built of unnailed and unhewn logs merely stacked one upon the other, ... with the open spaces between them filled with mud daubing, ... their slab roofs laid on unnailed and held in place only by small logs laid across their exposed ends.

The truth seems to be that all but one of the log structures at New Madrid survived the earthquakes, though no doubt they had to be repaired. The missing building appears to have been the old church, which travellers described as "falling down" some years before the earthquakes.

At Cape Girardeau, only 55 miles north of New Madrid, the damage was surprisingly light. A brick home that had just been completed there has been described as "damaged" by the earthquakes, but nevertheless survived and was lived in until it was torn down in 1896.

Brick buildings of that day were built without inner wooden frameworks, and if badly damaged, would have collapsed entirely, as there was nothing inside to support the roof, once the brick sidewalls were shaken down.

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ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKES OF 1811-1812: Continued

The then newly erected George Henderson home, a frame structure with two tall outside fireplace chimneys, had its damage confined to a cracked chimney (one report says the top of one of these chimneys was shaken off),and a crack in a cellar wall, which no doubt was made of loose, unmortared Thebes sandstone blocks.

The building itself survived intact and was lived in until it was torn down in 1915.

As a matter of fact, it does not appear that a single building in the entire village of Cape Girardeau was damaged sufficiently to make it even temporarily uninhabitable, and most of them, including Lorimier's Red House, survived for many years after these earthquakes.

How could this have been so, given the topographical effects--lakes formed, sand blows, landslides, etc.--that were so apparent in the epicentral area ?

The answer would seem to be that, because of deep layers of waterlogged and unconsolidated sediments, even relatively moderate earthquakes can produce many of these effects. An earthquake centered near Charleston, Mo., that occurred on Oct. 31, 1895, is described in the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey's "Earthquake History of the United States," as having resulted in the following surface changes:

"Four acres of ground sank and a lake was formed. Near Bertrand hundreds of mounds of sand were piled up, ranging from 12 inches to 10 feet in circumference. The ditches in the neighborhood were filled with water coming from the resulting holes. Near Big Lake, 4 miles north of Charleston, two small holes were in the earth from which the water spouted to a height of 3 feet."

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKES: Continued.

Nevertheless, not a single one of the many flimsily constructed brick buildings in Charleston, Cairo or other towns of the area, were thrown down. Structural damage, in fact, seems almost exclusively to have been confined to chimneys, which oftentimes are damaged by relatively minor earthquakes that produce no surface changes at all.

(See footnote on following page numbered 3½)

The truth is that the unconsolidated sediments of this area are so unstable that a very minor tremor, such as that of May 7, 1927, centered near Jonesboro, Ark., can trigger topographical changes: In this case, a landslide of considerable extent along the bluff one-quarter of a mile west of Ardeola, Mo. No structural damage of any sort was sustained by any building anywhere in Missouri, as the result of this earthquake, even though it did trigger a major landslide.

It should be mentioned, too, that Joseph Hunter's unscathed improvements on Wolf Island long antedated the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811 and 1812.

According to the "Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri," Volume I, page 341, "Boundary Controversies," Joseph Hunter had entered his Wolf Island land "before 1803." Houck says he was there before 1800.

And as to the houses that survived the earthquake at New Madrid, we find Daniel Adams, "Geography; or, A Description of the World," 2nd edition, Boston, May, 1816, stating that the town of New Madrid "Contains no more than about thirty indifferent houses." Which, as we know, was the approximate number it contained before the earthquake.

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The truth of the matter seems to be, for the reasons outlined in this chapter, that settlement in the Scott County area progressed slowly throughout the territorial period, 1804-1821.

Some of the more prominent heads of families who did settle here during that period are:

Thomas Houts	Joseph Hopkins
William Myers	William Kelso
Andrew Ramsey	Edmund Rogers
Thomas & John Byrnes	John P. Rutter
Joseph Hunter (1806?)	Michael McLaughlin
John Evans	Wilson Able
M.H. Stallcup	Joseph Smith
Alexander Montgomery	Thomas Roberts
Silas King	James Purtle
John Hall	Thomas Berry
Edward Fowler	Levi D. Chaney
James H. Dudley	Ignathius Wathen
Felix G. Allen	William Shaw
John Ordway	Enoch Liggett

Small settlements along the Mississippi however, did developed surprisingly early. Christian Schultz in his "Travels," 1807, Vol. II, page 33, tells that he "counted nine considerable settlements on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River between the mouth of the Ohio and Cape Girardeau, but observed none in that distance on the Illinois side of the river."

Three of these settlements, beginning with the Bird settlement at Bird's Point and ending with Shrum's settlement at Shrum's Point, now Thompson's Bend, were in what is now Mississippi County. Those along the river in what is now Scott County, south to north, were the Edward Fowler settlement, the John Ordway and Finley settlements (there was already a ferry at the latter settlement), the settlement on the then navigable Doolan's Chute back of Power's Island, the Thomas Water's settlement, and the Baldwin and Ross settlements just above the Grand Chain and at Ross' Point, now Gray's Point.

Despite this promising beginning, there was not, if we except Winchester, a single surveyed and platted town in Scott County on Dec. 28, 1821, when its boundaries were first delineated by the State Legislature. There was a trading post and store, and no doubt a few other buildings, at the Waters' trading post where Commerce is now located. There appears, too, to have been one or two trading posts in the southern part of the county, and perhaps one at Lone Rock, between the present sites of Chaffee and Oran. But there was nothing even faintly resembling what we would call a town today.

Likewise there were no roads worthy of the name. The only thing even resembling one was the so-called King's Highway. It was "marked out" in 1789, which probably involved nothing more than the "blazing" of trees along existing Indian trails. A part of it was cleared out and widened by order of De Lassus in 1803, and again in 1809 under orders issued by Meriwether Lewis. Still, the road from Bainbridge south, had to undergo another "clearing out" in 1815, which meant simply that trees and saplings had to be removed from the road. Most road contracts of that period called for stumps left in the road to be no more than eight to twelve inches high.

Actually the road was often almost impassable for wagons and carriages, and it was not uncommon for even the express riders who carried the mail from St. Louis to Winchester to take two or three weeks to get their job done.

Regular road maintenance of even the most primitive sort was unknown until an Act passed by the Missouri General Assembly in 1822 empowered the county courts to construct and maintain roads. Specifications for these were : "That no road shall be laid out of a greater width than fifty feet, nor of a less width than twenty feet: And provided, That all roads

shall be cleared of trees one foot through, and of brush and limbs of trees which may incommode horsemen or carriages, and that no stump shall exceed one foot in height."

Houck (Autobiograhpy, 1920) says that "the old King's Highway ran along the foot of the hills in Scott County, near the river, and then near the river bank to Cape Girardeau, following the high ground. The ground across what is known as The Big Swamp (now occupied by the Diversion Channel) along the river was much higher and better than the ground where the Rock Levee (road) now runs, but in the course of time the river washed away the high ground, making a big bar above Gray's Point and in that way the road became impracticable and I suppose that in a measure accounts for the location of the Rock Levee where it is."

The original King's Highway forked at the present site of Commerce, with one branch going southwest along the edge of the hills and hitting the Sikeston Ridge below Benton, while the other continued south along the river to about the site of Price's Landing, and then through the present site of Charleston, to its terminus at New Madrid.

This riverside road continued in use from Gray's Point to New Madrid long after the Big Swamp high ground crossing was washed away; in fact maps dated as late as 1883 show it still in use at that time. In after years it served the towns along the river, which,at one time or another, included New York, Commerce, West Philadelphia, Price's Landing and Charleston. And even today the deeply-worn traces of this old highway, in places up to 15 feet deep, can be seen at the edge of the hills along the river for some two and one-half miles south of Highway N just west of Manning's Landing. One stone bridge abutment, that at Kew Creek, has also partly survived the ravages of time.

Only three Mississippi River ferries are known to have operated within the present bounds of Scott County during the territorial period. These were the John Ross ferry at Ross' Point, The Thomas Waters ferry at Commerce, and the Charles Findley ferry just below Power's Island. The nature of these ferries and how long they were in operation is unknown to me, although I suppose that enough research even yet might turn up something on them.

Land policy changed under the territorial governments. Under the Spanish land had been free, and in some cases, even subsidized, as settlers were sometimes given a few pieces of farming equipment, a cow and a pig or two.

Under the territorial administrations public land was sold to settlers for $2 per acre, one fourth of which was to be paid at the time of purchase, and the remainder in three equal annual instalments. An 8 per cent discount was given for cash purchases.

This system of land sales was continued until 1820, when the price was set at $1.25 per acre, cash in advance.

This change was brought on by the depression of 1817 to 1821, a period when many of the settlers who had bought their land on credit found it impossible to make the annual payments required under the old system. Cash was hard to come by out on the frontier, and it is not unlikely that the Scott County area lost some of its early settlers through their inability to meet these annual payments.

TYWAPPITY-COMMERCE

The first recorded mention of a settlement at or near the present site of Commerce is that of Major, later lieutenant-colonel, John Francis Hamtramck, born 1757, died 1803. During his visit to this area in 1788, he noted that a village by the name of Ze-wa-pe-ta had by then been established on a site some thirty miles above the mouth of the Ohio, and that it was then occupied by perhaps 30 to 50 American families.

Modern river maps show Commerce to be 39¼ miles above the mouth of the Ohio, but Cramer's 1814 "Navigator" gives the mileage at that time as thirty, and pin-points the location of "the growing settlement of Tyawapatia" as four miles below the Grand Chain, which is almost precisely the distance between that immovable landmark and the site of Commerce today.

Hamtramck's estimate of thirty to fifty families would suggest, even using today's average of 3.5 persons per family, that some 105 to 150 people were camped or otherwise established there in 1788. Which is a surprising number, considering the scarcity of settlers then, and for some time to come, in this area of the Spanish-American colonies.

No other mention has been made of this settlement, so it seems logical to conclude that it was short-lived, and possibly connected with Col. George Morgan's efforts, beginning in the year 1787, to establish a large colony of Americans on the west side of the Mississippi.

Morgan's associates, in a letter datelined New Madrid, April 14, 1789, mention that "considerable number of notable French families from the American part of Ylinoa, propose to join us, and tried to influence

us in favor of a very fine location twelve leagues (36 miles) above the mouth of the Ohio, on the west bank of the Misisipi."

Then, in a report dated April 30, 1791, Pedro Foucher, Spanish Commandant at New Madrid, listed some thirty families, virtually all of the 192 members of which were Franco-Americans from the Vincennes area, who had presented themselves at New Madrid between January 1st and April 30th, 1791, and had taken the oath of allegiance to the Spanish Crown as a preliminary to settling in the vicinity of New Madrid.

These people are almost certainly those that were encamped at Ze-wa-pe-ta in 1788. No doubt they remained at the Ze-wa-pe-ta site until it became clear that Morgan and his associates would not establish his planned city at that location, then moved south to the newly established town of New Madrid, the only one then in this area, since Lorimier did not establish his trading post at Cape Girardeau until 1793. Too, it is not likely, considering the almost complete absence of settlers elsewhere in the area at that time, that such a large body of settlers could have settled elsewhere in SE. Missouri and escaped the notice of historians.

The first permanent settlement, however, was not established at Tywappity, later to be known as Commerce, until 1797, when William Smith obtained a 408-arpen Spanish land grant (Survey 321), which included all of the original site of Commerce, except for a few of the southernmost outlots, which spilled over onto the John Johnston grant (Survey 215). Smith appears to have bought 62 arpens off the north side of the

Johnston, or Johnson, tract, for when he sold out to Thomas Waters, the deed called for the transfer of 470 arpents of land. This deed, made Jan. 11, 1805, included "houses, cabins, fences and improvements," as well as the land; for all of which Waters was to pay $2,200; $200 down and the remainder at a later date.

The interesting points in this deal are the price, which was much higher than usual, and the presence, at that early date, of "houses, cabins, fences and inprovements." This is especially true since the census of 1803 showed that William Smith owned no slaves, and that there were only nine people in his family. Why, then, all of the houses and cabins? The answer, I am convinced, is that, since the Franco-American Zewapeta colony had evacuated this site only six years before Smith claimed it, and only fourteen years before Waters bought it, some of their cabins and improvements, though no doubt largely of a temporary nature, were still standing.

Houck, "History of Missouri," Vol. II, footnote page 162, says, in his usual garbled manner, that "probably the earliest settler in this bottom was William Smith, who came from Kentucky and settled on the Mississippi in 1797, and built an establishment for the convenience of strangers opposite Wolf Island, evidently a sort of tavern, in 1800 sold to John Johnson.

John Johnson, or Johnston, and Wm. Smith, had adjoining grants at Tywappity, and not at Wolf Island, which is 24 miles downriver below Cairo. There are also records showing them to have made various land deals involving their adjoining tracts at Tywappity. Hence, it would appear that it was William Smith, and not Thomas Waters, who first established a trading post and tavern at Tywappity.

How could Houck have made such an egregious error? Well, for one thing, the documentary situation is somewhat confusing. For example, the "Township Entry Book" in the Recorder's Office at Benton shows a Joseph Hunter owning a long, slender island in front of and below what is now Commerce; and on the mainland opposite, the grants of William Smith and John Johnson. Which is exactly the situation that Houck thought prevailed at Wolf Island. But then we must remember that Houck also stated, at several places in his history, that the Waters and Hall trading post was located in Cape Girardeau, though there is no basis whatever for an opinion of that nature.

Incidentally, the island in front of Commerce, at least as early as Mark Twain's time, was known to river men as "Cat Island." It no longer exists as a separate entity. The lower end has been absorbed in the upward-building of Powers Island, and the upper end, that once extended as far north as Commerce, has been washed away. Its surface was always low, and it is unlikely that Joseph Hunter or anyone else ever established anything approaching a permanent residence on it.

Thomas Willoughby Waters arrived at Tywappity in March of 1804. He had previously lived in Newberry County, South Carolina, and left that region owing at least 100 pounds English money. Two documents among his estate papers show that his South Cerolina creditor had secured court orders for his arrest in Missouri if he failed to pay this deb

This judgement was subsequently satisfied by the sale of the remainder of Waters' South Carolina property.

On Aug. 23, 1804 Waters wrote President Jefferson, applying for the position of commandant of the district, pointing out that, as a Major in the Revolutionary War, "he had filled a higher military office than any one here, except for one man upwards of sixty years old."

Waters was, in fact, the highest ranking officer of the Revolution who ever settled in what is now Scott County; and despite his own comment, perhaps the highest to settle in all of Southeast Missouri.

Shortly after arriving here he formed a trading partnership with a young man named Robert Hall under the firm name Waters & Hall. Later, also, a partnership with another young man, James Brady, their firm being known as Thomas Waters & Co.

Records on file in Cape Girardeau County show that Robert Hall married Mira Tennille on July 20, 1806; and that James Brady married Elizabeth Ramsey on Oct. 15, 1810.

Waters and Brady immediately began acquiring land, and Waters & Hall began trading in a wide variety of products, including lead. This last as early as 1805, when purchases were made from Moses Austin at Potosi, Mo. Waters bought land in Cape County, as well as Scott, and Brady purchased the 204-acre (Survey 2207) Benjamin Rose grant a mile below Commerce, while Waters himself bought land at the north end of Powers Island, then known as Mucklemurray Island.

Waters apparently found the buildings acquired from Smith adequate for most of his business activities. However, he did begin constructing a house for himself, also a horse mill, neither of which projects were completed at the time of his death.

The fact that Waters did not find it necessary to construct business houses or warehouses, is further indication that Wm. Smith was, and had been for some time, conducting equally extensive trading operations at Tywappity.

~~Trigg due to the fact that~~ Waters lived only about two years and four months after he arrived in Missouri. His death occurred about Aug. 1, 1806. His wife, Fanny Waters, and James Brady were appointed as administrators of his estate. Brady was also the principal administrator of Fanny Waters' estate. (See footnote at bottom of this page.)

In the Thomas Waters estate papers there is a bill dated in 1808, and submitted by William Towle, calling for the payment of $100 for building a horse mill "begun during Waters' lifetime". Towle also submitted another bill dated March 2, 1811, asking payment for "repairing mill irons." This mill was of the "grist" variety, for grinding meal and flour.

A bill dated Jan. 1, 1806, was turned in by James Curran, and asked payment of $10 for "five days hauling stone from river for Waters' house."

Another bill dated Aug. 6, 1806 called for payment of $48.75 to Robert Lane for "65 days of boating, at 75¢ a day." This, apparently, was for operating Waters' ferry, later sold to George W. Bois.

Waters, it would appear, also operated a stage coach out of Tywappity, for a "stage Wagon," which is another term for stage coach, was listed in the Feb. 15, 1809 appraisal of Waters' personal property. It was valued at $21.75

Waters brought at least twelve slaves with him when he came to Tywappity. In addition to these, though, he often employed white laborers and artisans. The following documents from the Waters estate papers show the monetary value of these slaves. The ferriage bill, which is included, indicates that Waters was grazing hogs and cattle on the open range in Illinois, as well as in Missouri.

FOOTNOTE: According to D.A.R. information, Thomas Willoughby Waters was born Nov. 14, 1763, and his wife's maiden name was Fanny Davis.

"July, 1812

James Brady, Administrator of the Estate of Thomas W. Waters, Deceased,
To George W. Bois.

To 6 ferriages for men and horses when you was going after Cattle----$3.00

To 6 Ditto when returning at 50¢ each---------- 3.00

To crossing 7 men and horses in the same month, at 50¢---------- 3.50

To the crossing of 4 footmen to go after cattle at 25¢---------- 1.00

To Ferriage of 9 Head of Cattle at 20¢ each---------- 1.80

To Crossing three men and horses---------- 1.50

To three Ditto, and three head of Cattle---------- 2.10

To 2 Men and Horses and 2 Head of Cattle---------- 1.40

To Making Pen to Pen Cattle---------- 3.00

To Crossing 2 men and horses at 50 cents---------- 1.00

Total Bill for Ferriage---- $21.20

George W. Bois, X His Mark."

Bill dated Aug. 10, 1806, shows $48.75 owed to Robert Lane for 65 days of "Boating," at 75 cents per day.

"A list of Negroes which was sold at Public Sail the 4th day of April, 1809. Viz. 1 Negro girl sold to J. Montgomery----------$375.00
Which Negro was by the name Hannah.
1 Negro man named Noah, sold to Wm. Shaw---------- 520.00
1 Negro man named Dick, sold to Brady---------- 500.00
the sum of $50 added on this Negro for the use of the Estate.
1 Negro man named David to Brady---------- 251.00
1 Negro boy named Antony---------- 175.00
Total of Sales-----$1,871.00"

"A List of Negroes Sold November 16th, 1810 by the Sheriff on an Execution---Viz--
1 Negro Woman named Rachel----------$334.00
A boy named Robin---------- 399.75
A girl named Lucy---------- 310.00
A small girl named Lavina---------- 101.00
1 Negro child named Molly---------- 104.00
2 Old Negroes Abraham and Betty---------- 299.00
Total of Sales----$1,548.25"

John Guething, who submitted the following itemized bill for labor and materials used in building an addition to the Thomas Waters residence, was a resident of what is now Cape Girardeau County. A single man when he came to this region, he settled in 1798 on a 584-acre tract on Hubble Creek, which was surveyed Dec. 16, 1805. He planted an orchard on his land, and in 1803, according to the census of that year, raised 200 bushels of corn and owned 4 head of cattle and three horses. He was also a carpenter, and was often employed by Louis Lorimier on repair and construction work in the Cape Girardeau area. He acted as a bailiff for Lorimier, and later was an Associate Judge in the Cape Girardeau Common Pleas Court.

By studying Guething's bill we can determine something of the size and features of this addition to the Waters home. For example, 10,500 wood shingles, if of standard size, would cover a roof measuring about 33 by 40 feet. The four small gable end windows indicate a 2-story house. The two batten doors likely were outside doors, while the 4 panelled doors were for inside use, and suggest that the addition contained four downstairs rooms. And, if we assume that the gallery posts were seven feet in length and placed six feet apart, then the 28 feet of gallery posts would have been sufficient for a porch 24 feet long. The 60 feet and 6 inches of architraves listed immediately under the 4 panelled doors would be exactly enough to face four doors.

The 8 outside steps ($7\frac{1}{2}$ inches per riser), suggests a front porch or entrance about 5 feet off the ground, possibly on a hillside. The 14 inside steps indicate ceilings about 9 feet high on the first floor.

But enough of this here. An expert carpenter, with some knowledge of the history of his profession, however, might carry these computations much further, and come up with the actual dimensions and plan of this addition to the Waters home, which likely was the first frame building erected in Scott

"HEAD OF TYWAPPITY:

The Administrators of the Estate of Thomas W. Waters, Dec'd., to John Guething, For Work on the dwelling house of the Estate Aforesaid, In the year 1807 & 1808 & 1809, as per Bill herewith shone."

To Getting 10,500 Shingles at $3 per thousand----------$31.50
14 Square and 67 feet of framing Rafters at $1.00 per square 14.67
Lathing, 14 Squares 67 ft. at 41 3/4 cents---------- 6.00
14 Squares 67 feet of Shingling at $2.00 per square--------- 29.34
63 feet of large Boards at 4½ cents per foot---------- 2.83½
7 Squares 36 feet of framing joists at $1.00 per Square----- 7.36
46 Feet of Boxing at 12½¢ per Foot---------- 5.75
Planing and Beading 19 joists at 25¢ each---------- 4.75
8 Squares of Weather Boarding at $1.66 2/3 per square------- 13.33 1/3
Weather Boarding Two (2) Gable Ends at $1.50 each---------- 3.00
4 Small Gable End Windows at 37½ cents each---------- 1.50
2 Square & 44 feet of flooring at $3.09 per square---------- 7.32
2 Squares and 44 feet of Flooring, Both Sides Planed, $4. 9.76
6 Squares of Ceiling at $2.75 per Square---------- 16.50
44 Feet of Wash and Chair Boards at 16 1/3¢ per foot-------- 7.00
42 Feet of Skirting at 4½¢ per foot---------- 1.89
64 feet of architraves at 9¢ each---------- 5.76
2 Batten Doors, $1.00 each---------- 2.00
57 feet of hand rails and banisters at 50¢ per foot--------- 28.75
28 feet of Gallery Posts 8 squared, at 12½¢ per foot-------- 3.50
Amount Carried Forward-----$202.52¼

Page 2 of Bill.

Sawing 858 feet of plank at $1.50 per hundred feet-------13.00
140 Pieces of Window Glass----------17.30
Repairing the Window Frames put up in T.W. Waters' lifetime--10.00
1 Plate worked 8 Square---------- 4.00
8 Outside Steps--------25¢ each---------- 2.00
Getting Lathes and Shaving them for the House---------- 4.00
1 day's Sawing of Shingle Blocks---------- 1.00
4 squares 18 feet 10 inch flooring, $3.00 per square---- 12.56 3/4
3 Squares of flooring, 84 feet 8 in., Both sides planed---- 14.54
3 Squares 91 feet 10 in. framing sleepers, planed---------- 3.91
3 Squares 91 ft. 10 in. of flooring, $3 per square--------- 11.75
1 day's Hewing---------- 1.00
4 Squares & 18ft. of Framing Sleepers, 75¢ per square------ 3.12½
Slitting Planks---------- 3.65 3/4
61 feet 8 inch double architraves, 8½¢---------- 5.18¼
29 ft. 10 in. Jam Casings, 8½¢---------- 2.51
15 ft. 5 in. double architraves, 8½¢---------- 1.35
13 ft. 11 in. Sliders, 3½¢---------- 1.17½
50 feet Base and surbase (cornice) 12½¢---------- 6.25
4 Squares of Ceiling and 17 feet, $2.00---------- 8.34
4 Paneled doors, $3.00 each---------- 12.00
52 ft. 6 in. of double architraves---------- 4.46
8 feet of Same, 8½¢ per foot---------- 1.60
48 feet of sheathing, 4½¢ per foot---------- 2.14
15 ft. 6 in. of Jam Casings, 8½¢---------- 1.35¼

Amount Carried Forward----$349.91 3/4

Page 3 of House Bill.

5 Feet of Hand Rails, 37½¢ per foot---------- 1.87½
A Closet Door and Shelves---------- 2.00
A Pair of Stairs of 14 Steps, $1.50 ----------22.00

Total Amount---$373.79¼

By Cash in 1808 per my Receipt, filed with the Judge of the Probate Court of Cape Girardeau----------$113.40

Received of James Brady, Administrator of the Estate of Thos. W. Waters, Deceased, the amount of the above account in full after the Deduction of the sum of One Hundred & Thirteen dollars and forty cents, the amount of the above credit, and the amount of the balance is Two Hundred & Sixty-two Dollars & 37 cents, which I have received in full. Given under my hand Sept. 10th, 1810.

Signed: John Guething

~~From "Rejected Land Claims of Missouri Territory: John Guething,~~

~~584 acres, on Hubbel's Creek, Cape Girardeau County. Planted fruit trees in 1805. Land Surveyed Dec. 16, 1805."~~

JOHN GUETHING, Feb. 28th, 1811.

"I, John Guething, do certify that Thomas W. Waters in his lifetime did agree with me verbally to build the Dwelling House for the said Waters & that I have done the work on the said house, so far as is specified in the within Bill agreeable to the terms that I worked for other customers & that the work is absolute advantage to the Estate of the said Waters & that the worke has been done under the Direction of the Administrator of the said Thomas W. Waters, Deceased. Given under my hand Feb. 28, 1811.

Signed: John Guething

Through the itemized bill submitted by Mr. Guething we have learned something of the type and quality of the house the Waters family occupied at Tywappity. And by perusing the itemized list of Thomas W. Waters' personal belongings, as listed in the records of a sale held Feb. 15, 1809, we can learn what they had in and around this home.

For one thing, his library of 38 books is an impressive one for that time and place. His tastes were for the best in literature, travel books, history, and practical works, such as might be of use to him in his business affairs. His copy of "Euclid's Elements of Geometry," for example, would have helped him in his work as a surveyor, and we know he was a surveyor, because a set of plotting or surveying instruments was sold at the Feb. 15th sale.

His book on "Domestic Medicine" would have been invaluable, too, as there was not a doctor in the Cape Girardeau district when he arrived here in 1804. Dr. Zenas Priest, who treated Fanny Waters in her last illness, did not arrive in the district until at least 1805, and Houck was of the opinion that he and Dr. Thomas Neale were the first American physicians who established practices west of the Mississippi.

Most libraries of the period were long on theological works, but the Waters collection is remarkably lacking in these. A Bible was listed among the belongings of his wife. Mrs. Waters had many of the household items bid in for her at this sale. But not all of her husband's books. They were sold and we hear no more of them.

And if you wonder about the three "bareshare plows," they were simply wooden plows, the points of which were not shod with iron.

Thomas W. Waters' Personal Property Feb. 15, 1809.

Probate Court Records, Cape Girardeau County, Mo.

Page 1.

"A Bill of the Property Sold at the sale of Thos. W. Waters, Decs'd, agreeable to public Advertisement, which sail commenced the 15th Day of February in the year 1809.

7	Volumes of Shakespeare's Plays	$8.12½
10	Volumes of Wm. Mavor's "Voyages"	10.50
	Johnathan Carver's "Travels in North America"	.75
2	Volumes of Political Justice	2.00
2	Play Books	.50
	Sampson's Seasons	1.33 1/3
	Tobias Smollet's "Roderick Random"	1.26
	Homer's Works translated by William Cowper	1.00
	Volney's "View of the Climate & Soil of the U.S."	1.25
	Domestic Medicine	1.12½
	Rousseau's Works	1.00
	Seneca's Morals	1.12½
	The Life of Benjamin Franklin	.62½
	Euclid's Elements of Geometry	1.00
	Sallust's "Hist. of Cataline's Conspiracy"	1.00
3	Volumes of Henry Fielding's "Tom Jones"	1.30½
	Samuel Butler's "Hudibras"	1.12½
1	Volume of Military Laws	.87½
1	Volume of the World ?	.62½

1	Brown Horse	13.50
1	Sorrel Mare & Colt	30.00
1	Small old Sick Horse	2.00

1 Whipsaw----------$ 8.81½

1 Crosscut Saw---------- 8.25

1 Bed & Furniture---------- 20.00

1 Bed & Furniture---------- 30.00

Amount Carried Over----------$228. 69¼

Page 2.

1 Small Bed & Furniture---------- $10.50

1 Bed & Furniture---------- 27.25

1 Bed & Furniture---------- 37.00

2 Small Cherry Tables---------- 4.25

2 more Small Cherry Tables---------- 3.12½

1 Larger Cherry Table---------- 1.40

1 Case & Bottles---------- 6.50

1 Case & Bottles---------- 6.12½

1 Trunk---------- 4.12½

1 Trunk---------- 4.37½

1 Larger Trunk---------- 5.50

1 Another Large Trunk---------- 6.00

1 Smaller Trunk---------- 3.12½

1 Portmanteau Trunk---------- 1.12½

1 Old Trunk---------- 1.06½

2 Small Trunks---------- 1.06½

1 Pair of Hand Irons---------- .67 ¾/4

1 Pair of Hand Irons---------- .63½

1 Hand Bellows---------- 10.37½

1 Iron Pot---------- 1.25

1 Iron Pot and Two Candle Sticks---------- .87½

1 Larger Iron Pot---------- 1.50

1 Stone Pot---------- 1.31¼

1 Small Pot----------$ .90

2 Frying Pans---------- 2.00

1 Dutch Oven---------- 1.00

1 Small Oven---------- .50

1 Griddle Iron---------- .50

1 Larger Griddle Iron---------- 2.62½

1 Skillet & Lid---------- 1.06¼

Amount Carried Up----------$367.93

Page 3

1 Skillet----------$ 1.00

1 Tea Kettle---------- 3.25

1 Coffee Kettle---------- 1.31¼

1 Coffee Kettle---------- 1.31¼

1 Small Brass Kettle---------- 1.31¼

3 Pewter Dishes---------- 1.18 3/4

1 Pewter Basin---------- .56¼

2 Smaller Pewter Basins---------- 1.06¼

1 Large Pewter Basin---------- 1.00

4 Small Pewter Basins---------- 1.25

1 Lot of "Chiney," damaged---------- 3.75

1 Lot of Delft Cups & Saucers---------- .75

75 Head of Hogs---------- 154.00

1 Cow & Calf---------- 10.00

1 Cow & Calf---------- 10.00

1 Cow---------- 9.62½

1 Cow and Calf---------- 10.50

1 Heifer---------- 8.01

1 Cow---------- 9.00

1. Cow----------$ 9.37½

1 Heifer---------- 6,50

1 Small Bull---------- 4.75

1 Heifer---------- 6.50

1 Yearling Bull---------- 3.25

1 Calf---------- 1.87½

1 Bareshare Plough---------- 4.76

1 Large Bareshare Plough------ 12.50

1 Smaller Bareshare Plough---- 8.12½

1 Shovel Plough---------- 2.00

1 Lock Chane---------- 12.50

2 Axes, not good---------- 2.92

Amount Carried Over----------$671.87

Page 4.

1 Axe----------$ 2.75

2 Axes---------- 5.25

1 Broad Hoe---------- 1.87½

1 Small Hoe---------- .75

1 Small Hoe---------- 1.00

1 Spade---------- 2.12½

1 Mattock---------- 1.12½

1 Pair Iron Wedges---------- 1.87½

2 Screw Augers---------- 1.75

1 Handsaw---------- 3.00

1 Broad Hoe---------- 1.75

1 Small Hoe---------- .51

1 Stage Waggon---------- 21.75

1 Grindstone---------- 1.50

1 Beehive---------- 2.50

1 Beehive---------- 1.37½

1 Small Beehive---------- .75

1 Old Brass Kettle---------- 1.37½

1 Beehive---------- .75

1 Brass Lamp---------- 1.50

2 Earthen Crocks---------- .56¼

2 Small Crocks---------- .12

1 Stone Crock---------- .40

4 Earthen Crocks---------- 1.12½

1 Earthen Crock---------- .31

2 Large Crocks---------- .32

1 Stone Jar---------- .50

1 Large Earthen Jar---------- 1.00

1 Set of Knives & Forks and Knife Tray .50

1 Tea Board---------- .50

1 Shotgun---------- 5.06¼

5 Servers and Glass Tumblers---------- .62½

Amount Carried Forward------$738.16

Page 5.

2 Bottles & Bottle Stands----------$ .25

1 Bottle---------- .12½

3 Wine Glasses & 4 teaspoons-------- .76

1 Cow & Calf---------- 10.00

1 Candle Box and Molds---------- .27½

2 Colanders---------- .50

4 Candle Sticks---------- 2.12½

1 Candle Mold---------- .43¼

1 Pair of Sad irons---------- 3.00

1 Pair of Sad Irons---------- 2.50

1 Set of Plotting (Surveying) Instruments---$4.75

1 Pair of Sad Irons---------- 2.58

2 Pails----------$ .25

1 Pail---------- .25

3 Old Pails---------- .50

1 Churn---------- .12½

1 Cotton Wheel---------- 1.21

1 Cotton Wheel---------- 1.12½

1 Pair of Breech Bands--------- 1.12½

2 Dishes and Spoons---------- 2.62½

2 Chamber Pots---------- .50

1 Check Reel---------- 1.25

1 Dozen Plates---------- 2.00

6 Plates & One Dish---------- 1.00

1 Rifle Gun---------- 50.00

1 Man's Saddle---------- 7.50

1 Pail---------- .25

1 Bar of Iron---------- 3.50

2 Coffee Mills---------- 4.00

1 Plated Tankard---------- .76

1 Tea Pot---------- .14

Amount Carried Forward---$814.23 3/4

Page 6.

1 Coffee Pot and Candle Sniffers------- .31¼

1 Sugar Canister---------- .19

2 Baskets and cannister---------- .54

1 Earthen Coffee Pot---------- .37½

1 Pair of Sugar Tongs----------1.18 3/4

1 Set of Candle Molds and Box---------- .80

2 Sugar Boxes---------- .12½

3 Pair of Drawing Chains----------10.50

"Error in calcation"---------- .62

Total Sales $858.89¼

LAND SALE, DANIEL MULLENS TO THOMAS WATERS, DEC. 28, 1804

On File in Recorder's Office, Jackson, Missouri.

"Three hundred acres of French measure on the road to New Madrid about two miles from Friend's land, on land formerly occupied by one, 'Widow Smith,' and known by the name of Gravelly Spring, and including two springs and improvements." Consideration $300.

This deed, short though it is, contains several bits of extremely interesting information.

For one thing, Waters closed this deal 13 days before he bought his Commerce area property, which suggests that he considered acquisition of it important, probably for his trading operations.

As to the land itself, it involved the southwest half of Mullens' Spanish Land Grant, Survey No. 1014, located about one mile ENE. of Benton, and just southeast of the present Benton-Commerce road, now known as Highway E. Much later, but still something over 100 years ago, the county court selected this tract as the site for the county's poor farm.

At least one of the springs has survived the years, probably because, during the poor farm epoch, it was given a substantial concrete curb which has defied the present owner's bulldozer assisted efforts to stem or control its flow. Its location now is at the base of the Benton Hills about 100 feet east of the Interstate Highway 55 right of way fence. A line of large trees trending ENE. from it suggest that the old "New Madrid Road" came directly past it, making it convenient for the early travellers on this road to water their horses, or, perhaps camp overnight, with the assurance of having a good supply of pure water readily available.

The "New Madrid Road," of course, was simply another name for the King's Highway, which, as Houck pointed out in his autobiography, came directly south from Cape Girardeau along the river to approximately the present site of Commerce, then turned WSW. to the southeastern edge of the future site of Benton, where it moved onto the hills via the old Lambert-Benton road, whose deep cuts suggest a long period of use, possibly dating back to the 1790s.

Another branch of this road, as we have indicated elsewhere, went downriver from Commerce to Charleston and New Madrid. But this may not have been opened until somewhat later, and possibly not until all of the above towns and West Philadelphia had been founded.

In connection with the springs on the county farm land, and one formerly on Louie Ledure's farm, about one fourth mile to the west, it is interesting to note that, according to Colonel John Shaw, refugees from the Feb. 7, 1812 shock of the New Madrid earthquakes, "directed their course north about thirty miles to Tywappity Hill on the western bank of the Mississippi, and about seven miles back from the river. This was the first high ground above New Madrid, and here they formed an encampment."

Seven miles back from the river would have placed these refugees in the neighborhood of these springs, and since they came in the dead of winter, they would have needed a dependable and ready supply of water, also a cleared campsite, both of which would have been available on the Waters land grant tract, as improvements had been made and land cleared there even before Waters purchased the property in 1804.

And as to the term "Tywappity Hill;" this whole line of hills was known as Tywappity Heights or hills, and was so designated on some of the early maps of this region.

W½ OF DANIEL MULLENS GRANT BECOMES THE COUNTY FARM

Eventually this land came into the possession of Robert Ravenscroft, a merchant at Benton, who retained it for many years before selling it to the county. The county paid $2,500 for it, and the deed was made on July 16, 1867. N. Winchester, B.B. Gaither and John R. Swan were paid $10 each for serving as commissioners for selecting the farm.

On Oct. 6, 1868 the county court "ordered that the poor farm be leased to Thomas J. Deaton for one year, ending the 1st day of 1870, on the following terms: Deaton to keep all paupers at $2.50 per week, build fences at $2 per 100 new rails, and 50 cents per hundred for resetting old rails, and see and take care of all paupers sent to him by order of this court; and said Deaton is to be paid $2 per acre for all land tended by him."

Prior to this the county's poor and homeless people were farmed out in private homes, a small stipend being paid for their care, if they were not able to work and earn their board. There are numerous entries in the records of the county court of such payments. Also, in some cases, for the care of insane persons.

This last was made necessary because the state did not have an insane asylum until December of 1851, when the first state hospital for the insane was opened at Fulton, Mo. Which, incidentally, was also the first hospital of that kind west of the Mississippi River.

Some Scott County patients continued to be placed in private homes even after the Civil War, because of the lack of a regional hospital for their care. This was remedied in 1903, when State Hospital No. 4 was opened at Farmington.

From Goodspeeds' Hist of SE. Mo. we learn that: "About 1811 John Ramsey removed from Cape Girardeau, and located on what is now the county 'poor farm,' where he remained until his death in 1837. Three of his daughters, Elizabeth, Ann, and Mary, married respectively, John, James and Robert Ravenscroft."

CONFIRMATION PROCEEDINGS, BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS, THE

WM. SMITH GRANT, LATER PURCHASED BY THOMAS W. WATERS

Testimony given June 1, 1808 by witness Edmund Hogan.

Hogan swore that William Smith was inhabiting and cultivating this land in 1799,--and that the premises had been constantly inhabited and cultivated up to the date of his testimony.

Further testimony indicated that at that time (1808), the Waters heirs had thirty acres of the grant under cultivation, and that there was a frame house, a barn, stables, a horse mill, and a number of out buildings; also an orchard of 100 apple trees and 90 peach trees, on the tract.

The Waters claim to the grant was confirmed by the board of commissioners on Jan. 17, 1810.

What this first board of land commissioners was trying to ascertain was whether the claimant or assignee had actually been an inhabitant of Louisiana on or before Oct. 1, 1800, and whether he had actually made improvements on this property prior to Dec. 20, 1803, and whether at least some of the land had been brought under cultivation by that date.

No itemized statement of these improvements was required, and the evidence presented by the Waters obviously was not such, since among the out buildings, there must them have been a number of slave cabins and perhaps some sort of warehouse or other structure erected for housing trade goods.

Other items of interest included in the Waters estate papers were:

A bill of $1.50 submitted by John Baldwin for making the coffin in which Thomas Waters was buried. Baldwin at that time was residing on a farm on the Mississippi at the present site of Manning's Landing just east of Scott City.

A bill of $25 submitted in 1807 by James Welborn "for schooling your children;" and one by administrator Brady, for $34.50,"Cash paid for your son's schooling at New Madrid." This, of course, was for John Waters. The other children of Thomas and Fanny Waters were daughters Emily, [illegible] Mary Ann, Nancy, Fanny, Eleanor, Precious and Mary (Polly).

Mary Ann Waters married May 13, 1810 Ignatius Wathen, Fanny married (June 19, 1820) Alfred P. Ellis of Cape Girardeau, Nancy married a man named Mifflin and was widowed early; [illegible] Precious married John Lark, Eleanor married Henry Wait, and Mary (Polly) married William Shaw.

Fanny Waters, wife of Thos. W. Waters, died May 19 or 20, 1810, after an illness of about 3½ months. Dr. Zenas Priest, who attended her, made 13 trips to Tywappity during her illness and charged $5 per 15-mile round trip . On one occasion he remained there four weeks. His bill for the 13 "visits," his time and medicines, totaled $200.87½ , and this included "Cathartic for Black man Abraham, 25¢; 1 box of Itch Ointment for the Family, $1; Medicine for the Family, $1.50, and Pectoral Mixture for Daughter, $1."

Some of the items in the Fanny Waters appraisal list were those that had been listed in the Thos. Waters sale report, and had been bid in for her. These have been deleted from her list, but all other items of any interest at all have been included and are copied here.

Dr. Zenas Priest, according to Houck (History of Missouri), was one of the first American doctors to practice medicine west of the Mississippi River, and the bill he presented to the administrators of the Fanny Waters estate may well have been the first such itemized medical bill submitted in this area. Hence, it is of sufficient interest to warrant our including it in this history. The medical terms are in Latin. Some of these have been translated into English for the benefit of those who may not be acquainted with that language.

"Estate of Fanny Waters, deceased. To Zenas Priest, Dr.

1810, Feb. 8: Visit 15 miles $5.
Sweet Spirits of Nitre $2
Feb. 10: Powdered Rhubarb $1
Cinnamon $1.12
Roborans (redacted) $1
Feb. 14: Visit 15 miles $5
Powdered Quinine $2
Tincture of Camphorated Opium & Sweet Spirits of Nitre, compounded, $2.
Spirits of C. Cervi $1 (Cornu Cervi is Hartshorn or Ammonia)
Feb. 16: Visit & attendance 3 days $8
Quinine $1.
Powdered astringent $1.
Balsam Copaiva 50¢
Astringent injection $1.
Feb. 25: Venesection 50¢
Saline Mixture 75¢
Cathartic for Black Man Abraham, 25¢
Feb. 27: Visit 15 miles & Attendance 10 days $10
Quinine $1.
Astringent injection 75¢
Camphorated Tincture of Opium $3.
Emulsion of Balsam Copaiva $1.
Emulsion of Gum Tragacanth $1.
Pectoral (lung) Mixture for daughter, $1.
Sweet Spirits of Nitre & C. Cervi $1.
March 17: Visit and attendance 4 weeks, $24.
Quinine & Sweet Spirits of Nitre $11.
Elixir Paregoric $3
Powdered Rhubarb $1.50
Spirits of Lavender Compound $1.
Oil of Mint .50¢
Emulsion of Gum Tragacanth 50¢
Tincture of Thebaic (an opiate) $1.50
G. Kino (a powerful astringent) 75¢

March 17, Continued:
Powdered Rhubarb $2.
C. Cervi, Spirits of, 50¢
Sulphutic Ether $1.
March 27: For Visit & Attendance 10 days $10.
Quinine $2.
Sweet Spirits of Nitre $3.
Astringent $3
Powdered Rhubarb $2.
Tincture of Thebaic $1.
Elixir of Paregoric $3.
Enema (spelled with two Ms) $1.
Oil of Mentha 50¢
Muciliage of Gum Tragacanth 50¢
1 Box of Itch Ointment for the Family, $1.
Emplastrum Roborans $1.
Emetic 25¢ and [illegible]
ant Emetic 25¢
Medicine for Family $1.50
April 5: Powdered Rhubarb $1.50
April 8: Visit and Attendance 3 days $8.
Balsam Copaiva $1.
Cream of Tartar $1.
Gum Tragacanth $1.
Elixir of Paregoric $2.
Sweet Spirits of Nitre $2.
Glauber's Salts (purgative & diuretic) 25¢
April 15: Visit 15 miles $5.
Powdered Rhubarb $1
Gum Tragacanth 50¢
April 17: Visit 15 miles $5
Powdered Rhubarb $1.50
Anodine Haust (an opiate) 25¢
[illegible]
Elixir Paragoric $2.
Balsam Copaiva $1.
Diaphoretic Mixture (to produce sweating) 50¢
April 23: Visit 15 Miles & attendance 3 days $8.
Pill Asafoetida 25¢
Pill opium 25¢
Venesection (bleeding) 50¢
Cream Tartar $1.
Anodyne Haust 25¢
Emetic for daughter Nancy 50¢ (Emetics produced vomiting)
April 27: Visit 15 miles $5.
Powdered Alterative $3.50
Magnesia $1
May 4: Visit 15 miles $5.
Powdered Astringent $2.
Sedative Haust 25¢
Bottle of Opodeldoc (a camphorated soap liniment) $1.
May 14: Powdered Rhubarb 50¢
Sweet Spirits of Nitre $2.
Balsam Copaiva $1.
May 19: Visit 15 miles $5
Powdered Alterative $1.50

Total Bill $200.87½

Selected items from an appraisal of Fanny Waters' personal property, made shortly after her death by Henry Cockerham, John Guething, Zenas Priest, James Brady, and a man named Harris, who made his "mark."

Spelling is that used in the document.

11 Pictures at 24¢ each

1 Cace & Bottles $3.50

8½ Yards of Callico $5.00

6 Yards of blue Callico at 62½¢ per yd., $3.75

6 Yards of green Callico, 62½¢ per yd., $3.75

6 Yards of read Callico, 62½¢ per yd., $3.75

1 Camils hair Shall (Shawl) $3.00

1 Leno (a kind of cotton gauze) Shall $1.00

3 Yards of Book Muslin $1.50

1 Yard of Book Muslin 75¢

1 Silk Hankerchief $1.25

1 Remnant of Camebrick (cambric, a thin linen) 37¢

2 Muslin hankerchiefs $1.00

1 Remnant of Muslin 37½¢

1 Pair of Cotton Stockings 75¢

1½ Yards of Black Lace $1.00

1 Yard of ribbin 3½¢

3½ Yards of rubin (ribbon) $1.00

12 Sticks of Twist (from spinning wheel) at 12½¢ each, $1.50

8 Hanks of Silk at 12½¢, $1.00

1½ Paper of pines (pins) 37½¢

1 Lot of read Cotton $1.00

Alum 25¢

7 Yards of Cover Lace, 12½¢ per yard, 87½¢

1 Pair of Crdle Tiks (Cradle Ticks ?) $

7 Pairs of Knitting needls 87½¢

1 Set of Curtins $3.00

1 Set of Curtins $2.50

6 Bead quilts, selling for $4, $5, & $2.

1 Looking Glass 75¢

1 Set of Curtns $1.00

2 Volumes of Cowper's Homer $2.50

1 Pocket Bible $1.00

1 book, "Domestict Medcin" $1.25

1 Lot of Delft ware $4.50

2 Glass Baskets 25¢

2 Bottle Stands 50¢

1 Caster & Bottles 75¢

2 Pair of sissors 50¢

1 Pair of Cotton Cards $1.00

1 Pair of Wool Cards 25¢

1 Candle Mold 12½¢

1 Hair Broom 62¢

1 Furkin (Firkin, a wooden dish for butter) $1.

1 Spinning whel $1.00

1 Loom & Warping Mill $4.50

6 Slays (sleighs, the Waters owned no farm wagons) 25¢ to $1 each

1 Coffee Mill $2.50

1 Papper Mill $1.25

1 Tin Horn 25¢

1 Pad lock 50¢

3 Bee hives at $2.00 each

4 Head of Sheep at $2.50 each (These had been acquired after Thomas Waters' death, and probably were the first sheep brought into this area. Note the wool cards brought only 25¢, while the cotton cards, apparently in much greater demand, brought $1.

1 Silver Watch $35

1 Gold Locket $10

The above appraisal was made on Nov. 23, 1810, but not filed for record until April 10, 1812, seven days after these belongings had been sold at auction. James Brady was the heaviest purchaser at this auction. Others buyers were:

Henry Cockerham	John Cockerham	Jessee Jeffrey
James H. Stephenson	Jacob Davis	James Forrister
Thomas Fletcher	William Ramsey	John Guething
James Currin	John Wathen	Thomas Neale
Warren Davis	Andrew M. Ramsey	William Smith
John Lane	Abraham, the former slave	

William Smith's presence suggests he was still living in the area in 1812. Brady bid in the silver watch and the gold locket for Emily Waters, paying $30 for the watch and $5 for the locket. Abraham paid $31.50 for a mare.

Some interesting items sold were: Stuffing Horn 31¼¢. This likely was the "tin horn" mentioned in the appraisal. Set of Spools $1.12½, Yoke of Oxen $20, an oven $1.75, bed spread $3, 300 bushels of corn $100, and 2,200 pounds of pork at 3¢ a pound, $66.00

Incidentally, the Waters slaves were sold and repossessed several times, the final sales not coming until 1830 & 1831, when the Thos. Waters estate was at last brought up for final settlement. These final sales are covered in the following document. An 1824 bill submitted by Chas. G. Ellis, a Cape merchant, is of interest, too, as it includes supplies purchased for these slaves.

Feb. 14, 1824

Estate of Thomas W. Waters

To Charles G. Ellis

	To 1 quire of paper	37½¢
Sept. 15	To 3½ yards of Domestic, at 25¢ a yard	87½¢
Sept. 19	To Medicine for Negro Robin	75¢
Oct. 2nd	To Medicine for Negro Lavina	$1.25
Nov. 13	Two Buffalo Robes for Negroes Dick & Polly	$10.00
	One Blanket for the girl Lavina	$1.50
	Medicine for Lavina's child	.50¢
	Medicine for Lavina	.50
Dec. 19 1825	One Buffalo Robe for Negro boy David	$5.00
Jan. 25	Cash for Wm. Creath, Sheriff, on Execution against the heirs of Thos. W. Waters, Deceased, in favor of H. Buckner, as per sheriff	$176.07
	Tax to Collector for Negroes for the year 1824, as Rent	$7.87½
June 10	To seven doses of medicine for girl Polly	.87½¢
	1 ounce of Bark (cinchona tree, quinine)	.50¢

Oct. 30, 1830

"Account of Sale of Negroes belonging to the Estate of Thomas W. Waters, deceased, and sold by Alfred P. Ellis & John Byrne, Administrators de bonis non of said Estate on the 30th day of Oct., 1830

Buyer	Slaves Sold	
Moses McClean	Rachel	$200.25
Alfred P. Ellis	Dick	400.00
Alfred P. Ellis	Robin	464.00
Alfred P. Ellis	David	579.00
Alfred P. Ellis	Anthony	509.00
Richard Wathen	Lavina & child, Elizabeth Ann	$427.00
John Byrne	Emily	208.00
Alfred P. Ellis	Riley	213.00
John Byrne	Adeline	141.00
George Hacker	Harriet	107.06¼
George Hacker	Ellick	120.00
Sale of Polly and two children May 14, 1831 to William Broom		400.00
	Total Sales	$3,708.31¼

State of Missouri, County of Cape Girardeau:

Personally appeared before me George Henderson, a justice of the peace within and for Cape Girardeau Township, and the county aforesaid Levi L. Lightner and made oath that he has acted as Clerk to the foregoing sale made by Alfred P. Ellis & John Byrne, as administrators of Thomas W. Waters, Deceased, at the time therein mentioned.

George Henderson, Justice of the Peace L.L. Lightner

COMMERCE

Under the statutes in effect in the period immediately after Missouri became a state, the circuit courts were given control over executors, administrators, guardians and minors, and hence of the much litigated and long overdue settlement of the Thomas and Fanny Waters estates.

In an effort to speed and facilitate this process, the court, in 1823, ordered a board of commissioners to be appointed to lay out lots and out lots at the present site of Commerce and "to expose and sell them at public vendue."

As near as can be determined from the county records, the first of these sales took place on Oct. 16, 1823. Excerpts from a deed recording one of these Oct. 16th sales follows.

"Know ye that we, Wilson Able, James Pirtle, Thomas Roberts, James Wilburn and Joseph Smith, commissioners being ordered by the Circuit Court of the County of Scott to expose and sell at public vendue, all the right, title, claim and interest of John Waters, Nancy Mifflin, Amelia Davis, Alfred P. Ellis and Fanny his wife, Ignatius Wathen and Mary Ann his wife, John Lark and Precious his wife, Henry Waite and Eleanor his wife and William Shaw and Polly his wife, heirs and legal representatives of Thomas M. Waters deceased of and into two certain tracts of land in Tywappity Bottom in said county on the Mississippi River, and having given due notice of the time and place of sale did expose and offer for sale the following lots or parcels of land a part of the above said tracts of land situate and bounded as follows: Out lots numbers 19, ($29); 9, ($51); 8, ($53) and 7, ($39). And Two other lots in the Town of Commerce, being numbers 53, ($14) and 41, ($3.75), and James Welburn being the highest bidder and offering

for the same the sum of $259.75 the same was struck off to him."

The above deed was recorded Dec. 14, 1824.

It would be of more than passing interest to know who named Commerce and why these persons,or person, selected that name. Likely it was some of the Waters heirs. But as to why they chose Commerce we cannot even surmise, since they certainly did not name it after any town of that name in the U.S., for none had been founded at that time.

It is interesting, too, that they continued to identify the site as being in Tywappity Bottom; although many of the lots and out lots were located well up on the side of Cemetery Hill.

The out lots, I believe, are something unique in Scott County, although not elsewhere. In the case of Commerce, the out lots immediately adjoining the town ranged in size from 4½ to 7 acres. Those in the next outward tier, 10 to 12½ acres; and in the third tier, 20 to 30 acres; while the fourth and final tier was made up of tracts ranging in size from 86 3/4 to 155 acres. There were 22 of these out lots, and the 155-acre tract, the outermost and largest, was number 22. Number 1, a 4½-acre tract, adjoined the northwest corner of the town.

Many of the out lots and town lots were bought by absentee speculators or bid in by individual members of the Waters family. Among the better known in the first category were Nathaniel Watkins, William Myers and Nathaniel Wickliff. Myers was then a resident of Benton, Watkins was a Jacksonian, and Wickliff was then residing in Kentucky.

Thomas W. Waters, had he been out of debt, would have been a very wealthy man for the time and place in which he lived. His personal property alone was inventoried at $4,331.62½. And this, of course, did not include his real estate in the Tywappity and Cape Girardeau areas, which amounted to considerably more than 1,000 acres and included his home and business buildings at Tywappity, also any and all improvements on his Mucklemurray (Powers) Island and Cape Girardeau area farms.

Settling an estate of this proportions, encumbered, as it was, with debt, was necessarily a slow process, especially since he died without having made a will. Then, to further complicate matters, his wife, Fanny, his principal heir, died long before the estate could be settled.

Notice of final settlement was not published until 1831; and even this does not appear to have ended the matter, for the final sale of the Thomas Waters slaves did not take place until 1833.

Even the settling of Fanny Waters' estate was not completed until after 1827. In the meantime, those appointed to administer these estates moved away, died, or resigned and had to be replaced.

However, the single most influential of these administrators was James Brady, who served until his death in 1820. In addition, as a former partner of Thomas Waters, it was only natural that the Waters children would select him to handle the family's business affairs, which he appears to have done from 1806 to 1817. About 1817 John Waters began handling some of the family's business affairs, as he had by then become a licensed attorney at law. And it was at this juncture that William Shaw, husband of Mary (Polly) Waters, then residing in Louisiana, appointed "my trusty and loving friend John Waters of the Missouri Terri-

tory and district of Cape Girardeau my true and lawful attorney." John does not appear to have been very successful as an attorney, but was appointed a justice of the peace on August 22, 1825. His Commerce area property was auctioned at Benton on Oct. 9, 1827 to satisfy a debt of $167, and not long thereafter he moved to a farm in Cape Girardeau County, where he died in May of 1836, still owing substantial debts. His personal property, appraised at that time, was valued at only $489.20 His library consisted of "1 lot of books" valued at 25¢, and one map, at 18 3/4¢. His heirs were listed as Polly, Fanny, Thomas, Nancy C., and Richard Henry Waters.

Since the Waters were able to live at Tywappity from 1806 until they began selling off their real estate in 1823, someone had to be carrying on their trading and other enterprises, in order to provide them with a living. Brady no doubt was involved in this, also Ignatius Wathen, perhaps Alfred Ellis; and later, of course, John Waters.

Four lawsuits involving the Waters heirs were carried to the Missouri Supreme Court. Two of these were tried in the Nov., 1823 term. One involved Charles Ramsey, Executor of the Brady estate, versus John Waters, Ellis & Others. It resulted in the Waters heirs regaining ownership of the Waters slaves.

The other 1823 case was Ramsey versus Ellis, and concerned some bad notes on an insurance company that Brady had used in paying a debt that he had owed to Ellis.

The third case, tried in the May, 1827 term, was Wathen and the other Waters heirs suing to eject a man named English from land he had purchased from them.

A fourth case, tried in the May, 1824 term, concerned a contract made in April, 1806 by Thomas Waters, wherein he had agreed to deliver a quantity of lead to Cage & Black. Ramsay, administrator of the Brady estate, found this document among Brady's papers and sued the administrator of the Waters estate, who, at that time was Ellis. Ramsey lost the case and had to pay the costs.

It might be well to point out here that from the facts brought out in the foregoing chapter on Tywappity, it would appear that the Commerce settlement is one of the oldest, if not actually the oldest, in Southeastern Missouri.

We know, for example, that Lorimier did not establish his trading post at Cape Girardeau until 1793, five years after the French settlers first occupied the Commerce site. And while a trading post was established at New Madrid in 1783, it was not, in reality, the present town of that name, for, according to the American Guide Series book "Missouri;" "Modern New Madrid is the descendant four or five times removed by flood and the changing course of the river, of a fur-trading establishment founded about 1783 by Francois and Joseph Le Sieur, Canadian trappers and traders." In fact it is thought by some that the original site of New Madrid is now across the river in Kentucky. Too, no real settlement involving any appreciable number of people was made at New Madrid until about 1790.

The same also is true of Ste. Genevieve, which, after the great flood of 1785, was gradually moved, over a period of about twenty years, to a site some four miles northwest of the original settlement.

Commerce, on the other hand, has remained throughout its history on the site first occupied by the French settlers in 1788. Hence, except for St. Louis and St. Charles, it would seem to be the oldest town in the state still occupying its original site.

Why hasn't all of this been brought out in previous histories? Simply because a lot of tedious and difficult research was involved and the non-resident historians who wrote the earlier histories of Scott County were not sufficiently interested in this area to spend the necesary time and effort on it.

Even so, their neglect is such as to be almost unbelievable. Robert Douglass, in his "History of Southeast Missouri," for example, allocated only five lines to the activities of Thomas Waters and his heirs; and Goodspeed's "History of Southeast Missouri" gave an even more niggardly four and one-half lines to the subject.

Houck, "History of Missouri," did a little better, but kept insisting that Waters "engaged in merchandising and farming at Cape Girardeau" (Vol. 2, page 191 & page 386).

Royal E. Ford, a Cape Countian residing in Scott County at the time he and his students in the Illmo High School compiled their "History of Scott County," beat them all by devoting a whopping 34 words to Waters and the entire Louisiana and Missouri territorial histories of the area. And besides that, was wrong by two years, as to the date when Waters established his trading post at Tywappity.

Evidently an organized Methodist Episcopal Church was ~~early~~ present at an e
~~present~~ date in Commerce. At any rate, a committee made up of John Brown, and Wilson Able bid in town lots 115, 116, 117 and 118 for the sum of six dollars, "the payment of which is secured to our full satisfaction, (we) have granted, bargained, sold and confirmed unto the Methodist Episcopal Church for the purpose of establishing a public burying ground and meeting house for said church and residence for a Methodist minister." The deed for these lots was dated March 26, 1825.

Unfortunately it is not known whether a church and parsonage were ever erected on the lots. But the fact of their purchase makes it evident that there was a Methodist congregation in Commerce in 1825.

It does not appear, at least insofar as can be determined from county records, that any new businesses were established in Commerce in the last half of the 1820s. This likely was due to the fact that economic conditions throughout the United States were depressed from 1825 to 1830.

With the end of this depression in the latter year and the development of steamboat freight and passenger service on the Mississippi, new interest developed in town building, town founding and land speculation.

It is therefore not surprising to find at this juncture that investors and businessmen from ~~from~~ neighboring states and elsewhere began bu lots in Commerce and establishing business houses of one kind or another on them.

Others, of course, bought lots for the purpose of erecting homes on them. One interesting example of this was the purchase by Francis Burnham of Alexander County, Ill., of lots 38, 39 and 43; one for each of his three daughters. Burnham Island, across the river south-

east of Commerce, incidentally, was named for this family of Burnhams, who owned land in that area. Burnham's deed to the Commerce lots was dated Oct. 9, 1832.

Another Alexander County resident, Jesse W. Echols, purchased Water Street Lot No. 6 from John Baldwin, a landowner at the present site of Manning's Landing, who had speculated in Commerce property. Echols paid $50 for the lot, a price that suggests that there was little of value on it in the way of buildings at the time of this April 3, 1833 purchase. Echols, however, operated a store in Commerce in the late 1830s and 1840s, and may well have erected a store building on this lot, as it was an excellent location for such a business.

Archibald Price, later at Price's Landing, was a businessman in Commerce in the 1830s and 1840s. His first purchase would appear to have been Out Lot No. 20, which he bought at a price of $300 from James Strother. Price purchased this 86 3/4-acre tract June 27, 1832.

The Waters heirs sold riverfront lot 123 June 25, 1831 to the firm of Petit, Menard and Valle for $15.12½. The records do not show what sort of business they established there, but there is a record of it being sold at a sheriff's sale on Sept. 10, 1842, which again was during a period of severe economic depression, a fact that may account for its being disposed of in that manner.

On March 8, 1833, Samuel Russell of Ohio and William and Samuel Gracey of Pennsylvania bought lots numbers 87 and 88 from Richard and Mary Ann Wathen. They paid $250 for the two lots, suggesting, in view of the deflated prices at that time, that a building or buildings had been erected on them by the Waters heirs. Oddly enough, there is no further mention of Samuel Russell in county land records. However,

we know that Samuel and William Gracey established a pottery on these lots, and even to this day the site, just north of the present Methodist Church, is littered with potsherds and glazed fragments of their kiln or kilns.

William and Samuel Gracey eventually bought many other lots and out lots in Commerce. Samuel transferred the bulk of his holdings to William on Dec. 7, 1843 and moved to St. Louis. William and Job Worsley then formed some sort of partnership involving the two pottery lots and lot 89, which adjoined them across Washington Street on the south. Lot 89 is now the site on which the Methodist Church stands.

In 1852 William Gracey left Commerce after having appointed Thomas M. Shaw, an attorney, to handle his Commerce affairs for him. On March 20, 1855, William Gracey's and Job Worsley's interests in lots 33, 34 and 87 were sold at auction to satisfy a debt of $306.50. Lots 88 and 89 had been sold at a similar auction on Oct. 12, 1854. The purchaser was Thomas M. Shaw. There is no certainty that the pottery was ever operated after these sales, and it certainly was not in operation in 1873 when Campbell's Gazetteer was compiled.

Isaac Cornwell and Isaac Reed were associates of the Graceys in Commerce lot deals, and all four played key roles in the development of the New York pottery complex, which also was developed in the mid-1830s.

One cannot help but suspect that these potters were directed to this area by Robert Owen's associates at New Harmony, among whom were the noted geologists William Maclure, Gerard Troost and David Dale Owen. We know that they so directed the famous English potter James Clews to a site on the Ohio above New Harmony, and since Robert Owen owned potter's clay deposits just above Commerce, he and his sons would have had reason to want to direct potters to this region.

On Feb. 23 and 26, 1836 Jesse W. Echols sold lot 6 and the south half of lot 124 to Adeniram Seavers. Then, on Aug. 23, 1839 Seavers purchased William Gracey's interest in lot 35. Seavers was a tanner, and apparently operated a tannery at Commerce as early as the mid-1830s, for there is a document in the county records bearing the date March 26, 1834, wherein Richard Waller agreed to apprentice his sons, Joseph and Samuel, "to Adeniram Seavers to learn the art and trade of a tanner and currier." This latter term has to do with the oiling, rubbing, flexing and rolling of tanned leathers.

Benjamin Gaither, previously thought to have been the first tanner at Commerce, established his Commerce tanning business in 1845 after having served a 6½-year apprenticeship with James McGuire of Jackson, Mo. Gaither operated his Commerce tanning business until 1856, at which time he moved to Benton and opened a general merchandise store.

County Court records show that on Sept. 12, 1833 John Hall was issued a license to operate a tavern at Commerce. The fee was $10. John Hall sold lot number 48 to William Gracey in 1839. This is just north of what was to become the courthouse square, and possibly was the site of Hall's tavern.

A ferry license was granted to James Weaver in 1833. Fee $2. A similar license for a ferry at Commerce was issued Feb. 4, 1839 to John Brown.

One of the curious things about the recent history of Commerce is that all regular travel across the river has ceased since the late 1920s. There were ferries there from 1805 to well up into the present century, and there was extensive trade and traffic between the people of Commerce and their counterparts across the river in the vicinity of Santa Fe, later known as Fayville. Now there is no commercial contact at all.

The earliest roads out of Commerce was the river road north to Cape Girardeau and south to New Madrid. There was also a branch of this, antedating even the founding of Benton, that went southwest to the Sikeston Ridge, and down this to New Madrid. These actually made up the original King's Highway, and not that segment that ran north through the present site of Kelso and across Ramsey Creek.

The latter road is referred to in early county court records as the "Jackson-Benton road." Houck, in his autobiography, tells us that access to Cape Girardeau from this road was virtually impossible until he and his associates built the Rock Levee access road to it in 1869-1872.

The importance of the riverside road is highlighted in county court records by repeated entries concerning repairs. Then there is a July 16, 1832 entry that authorized "John Brown, James F. Ross and John Oaks, as Commissioners, to view and mark the road from Commerce to the Bridge on Cape La Creche Creek."

High waters on the Mississippi and floods on Ramsey Creek made replacements and repairs on this bridge a frequent necessity. On April 21, 1835, for example, the county court authorized the "expenditure of $50 as Scott County's share of the cost of building a bridge across Cape La Cruiche Creek." Then, Oct. 2, 1848 the court "ordered that Coatsworth Welborne be appointed commissioner to superintend the necessary repairs on the Bridge across Cape Lacrouch Creek. Said repairs to be done on so much thereof as may be within the County of Scott."

THE POST OFFICE & POSTMASTERS AT COMMERCE

From U.S. Post Office Dept. Records, 1832-1971

Joseph W. Echols, appointed May 23, 1834

William Gracey, June 19, 1837

Isaac Reed, Aug. 16, 1842. Isaac Reed died in 1848.

Nathaniel Reed, Oct. 26, 1848. Nathaniel Reed was the son of Isaac Reed.

Henry A. Johnson, June 2, 1853

Noah C. Johnson, Jan. 16, 1855. An attorney. Represented Robert Owen.

Sander Burgess, Aug. 12, 1856

Noah C. Johnson, Aug. 10, 1858

John Woods, March 25, 1859

Samuel Ross, Oct. 3, 1861

Cyrus M. Eversol, June 7, 1862 ?

Carroll Moye, May 8, 1865

M.F. Silman, Feb. 2, 1870

Frederick De Wint, May 27, 1871

Louis Climer, Aug. 9, 1876

Charles H. Kew, Feb. 19, 1877

William Ballentine, Feb. 12, 1878

Jonathan B. Torbert, Oct. 18, 1882

Granville G. Matthews, Dec. 23, 1885

Herman Wahl, July 20, 1889

Granville G. Matthews, June 2, 1893

SOME COMMENTS

Joseph W. Echols was not Commerce's first postmaster, but was the first listed on this microfilm record, because he was appointed after 1832.

The Commerce postoffice was the only one in the county that enjoyed uninterrupted service throughout the Civil War.

These were political appointments. Hence, it is safe to assume that Granville G. Matthews was a Cleveland Democrat and Herman Wahl a Harrison Republican. Also that Samuel Ross, and certainly Cyrus M. Eversol and Carroll Moye were strong pro-Union Republicans.

On July 21, 1834 William Gracey was appointed road overseer for Division 6, which covered part of the road between Commerce and Benton. This and other such appointments by the County Court indicates that by them some modest efforts were being made to maintain the county's roads. That they were far from highways though is evident from a May 5, 1836 court order, which directed that "the roads from Benton to Commerce; Benton to Iron Banks; from Big Swamp to County line on road to New Madrid, be opened thirty feet wide." "Opened" in this case meant clearing the underbrush and trees out of them.

Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri, published in 1888, lists the early mercantile firms conducting business in Commerce as Weaver & Echols, Shaw & Petit, and Ignatius Wathen. It is not unlikely that Wathen, a son-in-law and heir of Thomas W. and Fanny Waters, took over the old Waters trading establishment after the death of James Brady.

Goodspeed also mentions John Brown as keeping a hotel at Commerce in these early years, and the firm of Lyon & Applegate as resident cabinet makers.

It is not likely, however, that these businesses were all active in Commerce at the same time. Had this been so, the town would have cut a much larger figure in the history of that time than it actually did.

Nevertheless, on May 21, 1834, a petition for incorporation of the town was submitted to the county court by William Gracey, Jacob Spear, Joseph S. Smith, John Brown, Joseph M. Echols and a man whose name is only partly legible in the court records, but appears to have been that of H. Erastus.

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INFORMATION ON COMMERCE DERIVED FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE COUNTY COURT OF SCOTT COUNTY

Dram shop license issued to Joseph Cramer, at Commerce, May 10, 1849

"Grocery shop" license to Nathaniel Reed, Commerce, May 10, 1849

Dram shop license to Edward B. Kelso, Commerce, May 10, 1849

Dram shop license to Benjamin Silman & Co., "at their stand in Commerce," August 13, 1849

Dram shop license to James Kern, Commerce, Mar. 22, 1865

Dram shop license to J.L Withrow, Commerce, July 24, 1865

Dram shop license to Bernard Ulrich & James Speaks, Commerce, Aug. 21, 1865

Dram shop license to John Hinton, Commerce, Aug. 21, 1865

Ferry operator's license July 23, 1866, to Preston Moore. Following charges allowed: Man, 50¢, Wagon $1., plus 50¢ for each horse; 25¢ each for "neat cattle."

Ferry license to Jesse Ireland, Commerce, Oct. Term, 1867

Ferry license to Joseph Merriman, Commerce, April 8, 1869. However, a deed recorded in Book 17, Page 324, indicates that "Joseph Merriman of Alexander County, Ill.,"sold the Commerce-Santa Fe ferry to John W. Rolwing on March 24, 1868, for $450.

Dram shop license to Doom & Dannenmueller, Commerce, July Term, 1869

Dram shop license to Vincent Heisserer, Commerce, July Term, 1869

RIVERFRONT SETTLEMENTS ABOVE AND BELOW COMMERCE

Commerce, of course, did not develop in an area devoid of supporting population. As a matter of fact, a considerable population of prosperous, slave-owning families had moved into the riverside area of Scott County during the late teens and 1820s, after the federal land office was established at Jackson.

Among the more important of those who settled north of Commerce were Thomas Byrne, Isaac C. Cornwell, Daul Carrico, Peter Boggess, Joel Boggs, Antone Harrier (alias Flandrin), Presley Boley, and William Broom and Hannah Smith.

Robert Owen, of New Lanark, Scotland, and New Harmony, Ind., fame, bought almost a mile of riverfront land beginning about one-half mile above Commerce and retained ownership of it for the remainder of his life.

Others who settled in the area in 1832 or 1833 were Major (War of 1812) James Mansfield, Edward Ellis and Thomas H. Price.

Dr. Thomas Byrne was a man of considerable importance in the area and deserves special mention. He owned large tracts of land in the Grays Point area and established perhaps the second steam sawmill in the county. This was located in a valley south of the point, and this valley is still designated on modern topographic maps as "Sawmill Hollow."

A deed dated May 2, 1849 involved the sawmill site, which was being sold by Marcus Byrne, a son and heir of Dr. Thomas Byrne, to William Manning and Jacob N. Neely. It refers to the steam sawmill as having been established in Sawmill Hollow "several years ago," probably about 1840 to 1842.

Evidence of Dr. Byrne's reputation in the area is shown by his having been selected on May 30, 1835 to administer the estate of Bartholomew Cousins, which included enormous land holdings and other

property. Dr. Byrne's son, John, married Emily Waters, daughter of Thomas Waters, so the Byrnes were involved in the Waters estate settlement, too.

About 1844 or 1845 Edward Ellis erected a large steam-powered grist mill, apparently on the very tip-end of Grays Point, for, when the Big and Little Inch pipelines were being laid there, a very old well was dug into, and Charles Gray, who resided there at that time, was convinced that it was the well that had supplied water for the old mill.

In the year 1835 or 1836 the town of New York, located 2 3/4 miles downriver from the point, was surveyed and platted. The founders, as near as can be determined at this late date, were Isaac Cornwell, Isaac Reed and William and Samuel Gracey. This town and the ceramic complex that developed around it will be treated in greater detail at the appropriate place in this book.

At about this same time, another town, West Philadelphia, was being founded some six miles downriver from Commerce by Josiah Tomlinson and Elijah C. Eads, both of St. Louis.

Charleston, then in Scott County, was surveyed May 11, 1837, on land owned by Joseph Moore and others. All of these new towns had one thing in common: they were located on the old riverside Cape Girardeau to New Madrid road. Some have thought that Charleston was named for Charles Moore, a brother of Joseph Moore, who settled on the headwaters of Camp Creek, now known as Ruble Creek, in the year 1838. But since Charles Moore did not arrive in Missouri until a year after Charleston was founded, a much more likely explanation is that the town was named Charleston because it was located on St. Charles Prairie. A deed made Oct. 29, 1834, and recorded in

"Transcript Records," Books 1 to 5, page 253, in the county recorder's office at Benton, describes a tract of land in Section 5, Township 26 N., Range 16 E., now a part of the town of Charleston, as being "situated in St. Charles Prairie."

In 1839 Charles Moore married Martha (Strong) Broom, who was then operating a tavern or roadside inn. This is thought to have been located on what is now the Martin Eikstetter farm, alongside Route N, opposite its junction with county road number 321.

Martha Broom was the widow of William Broom, from whom she had inherited a substantial amount of property. Broom's will, made Feb. 20, 1838, shortly before his death, is of such uniqueness and interest that it is included here.

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF WILLIAM BROOM

"In the name of God--amen, I William Broom of the county of Scott and State of Missouri, being weak of body but of sound mind and disposing memory, and taking into consideration the uncertainty of life and certainty of death, do make and ordain this my last will and testament.

Viz--1st Imprimis. In the first place my will and desire is that my wife Martha Broom shall have all my lands and tenements, household and kitchen furniture, together with all my debts and dues, also all my stock and negroes (except such as I shall hereafter dispose of) during her material life hereby giving her power and right to use the whole proceeds of the rent of said land and hire of said negroes for the purpose of supporting herself, also at any time she may think proper to make a sale and sell such stock as she thinks not to be of use on the farm on a credit of twelve months for her benefit.

2nd Imprimis--It is my will and desire that Louisa Hutson, Daughter of William Hutson, shall have at my death a negro girl named Betty, to belong to her and her heirs forever.

3rd Imprimis--It is my will and desire that Mary Jane Taylor shall have a three year old Filly of my stock of horses.

4th Imprimis--It is my will and desire that Elizabeth Shaw shall have a three year Filly of my stock of horses.

5th Imprimis--It is my will and desire that my wife Martha Broom shall have a negro named Arch to dispose of as she may think proper.

6th Imprimis--It is my will and desire that my girl Sally shall be free at my wife's death, also the said Sally to have all the property: viz.-lands and tenements, household and kitchen furniture, also all the stock more or less, and negroes (namely) Steve, Anthony, Reuben, Perry, Maria, Melinda, Mary, Rachel, to belong to her and her heirs forever after the death of my wife, but the said Sally shall not sell the land during her lifetime.

7th Imprimis--It is my will and desire that each of my lawful brothers and sisters shall have five dollars when called for of my Estate.

8th Imprimis--It is my will and desire that William Broom Taylor, son of George Washington Taylor, shall have forty acres of land off the north end of an eighty acre entry made by me in Township 29, Section 10, to be his and his heirs forever.

William X Broom"
mark

The above document was witnessed by George W. Taylor and Asa Lawrence.

Broom, however, had disposed of some of his slaves long before he made this will. On June 11, 1827 he deeded two negro slaves to his daughter Minerva Hutson. And this, incidentally, is the earliest slave transaction on record in the county recorder's office at Benton.

Charles Moore, Martha Broom's second husband, was the father of Joseph H. Moore and the grandfather of Joseph L. Moore, both of whom were lawyers and prominent in the affairs of Commerce and Scott County.

An 1850 entry in the records of the county court describes the route of the old riverside road northwest out of Commerce as passing the George Raspberry, Allen Silman, Tidball and Galloway homes, and then going on to "Charles Moore's horse mill at the head of a branch of Camp Creek, thence down said branch to the main creek, and down that to the point where the main creek empties into the Mississippi River."

This would place the Charles Moore farm near to, or adjoining, the Wm. Broom plantation.

According to the information submitted to the Goodspeed editorial staff by Joseph H. Moore, son of Charles Moore, Charles Moore died Aug. 16, 1857, and his wife, Martha Broom Moore, had died "a few days earlier.

On Martha's death, the 6th imprimis of William Broom's will came into effect, and Sallie, the slave girl, actually did inherit the Broom slaves and plantation. She retained ownership of the plantation until Jan. 7, 1889, at which time she sold it to William Uelsmann. He had to go to Mound City, Ill., to make the deal, since Sallie was residing there at that time. Sallie Griffey and Margaret Wilkins put their marks on the deed, and Donzell Reed and wife, Elizabeth, signed it. Uelsmann paid them $1,300 for the 189-acre tract, which then included what is now the Martin Eikstetter farm.

The former slaves were buried on the Broom estate, and probably William Broom and Charles Moore. Mindful of this, Sallie had a clause put in the deed to Wm. Uelsman, "excepting one acre used and occupied as a family burying ground." Presumably this land, which is in a beautiful grove on the NE. corner at the junction of Route N and County Road 318, is still owned by the heirs of Sallie Griffey. There are no grave markers now, only a few broken bricks. At one time these bricks are said to have been placed around some of the graves. Some reports have it, too, that there were a few stone monuments there years ago.

There is an order in the minutes of the County Court of Scott County (dated April 11, 1868) directing that "the County Road Commissioners locate the change of the road from Jackson Hill to the Rock Levee Road, on application of Sally Griffey."

This shows that Sallie and her fellow slaves occupied this land through the turbulent period of the Civil War and were still there as late as 1868.

Until I found this County Court order, I had thought that Sallie and her fellow slaves might well have moved to Illinois before the war, because of the severe restrictions imposed on free negroes in Missouri.

These are perhaps best illustrated by a May 8, 1849 entry in the county court's records, that tells of "John Farrow Rhodes, a free negro man, a person of

of good character and behavior, having given bond for $300, is granted a license to reside in the State of Missouri, so long as he shall be of good behavior, and no longer."

Then there were the Road Patrols that kept watch on both slave and free Negroes. These were authorized under a law enacted by the state legislature on Jan. 7, 1825. This statute empowered the county courts of Missouri "to appoint in each township, if to them it seems proper, a company of patrol.---And this said patrol, so appointed, --shall patrol not less than twelve hours in each month, and visit negro quarters, and other places suspected of unlawful assemblage of slaves; and any slave found at such assembly, or who shall be found strolling about from one plantation to another, without a pass from his or her master, mistress or overseer, shall receive any number of lashes, on his or her bare back, at the discretion of the patrol, not exceeding ten."

Such patrols were regularly activated by the County Court of Scott County, throughout the period this law was in effect, and up until the onset of the Civil War.

Typical authorization of one of these patrols was that issued by the county court on June 23, 1851, which reads: "Ordered by the court that Albion Crow, John N. Ranney, Felix Allen, Edwin A. Buckner, Ashael Ranney and Surrell Sheppard be appointed a company of patrol for Moreland Township in this county and that Albion Crow be captain."

An entry dated Dec. 16, 1851 shows that "Albion Crow was paid $5 for services as one of the company of patrol for Moreland Township."

Another county court entry dated in the February term of 1849, concerns a "settlement with H.D. Spear, Sheriff, for moneys arising

from the sale of a runaway negro boy slave named Jackson, who had been confined in the jail of this county and sold by said sheriff according to law, and he is charged with the sum of $959, and credited with the sum of $111.40."

The Giboneys and Kelsos, whose families intermarried, were slave owners. Edward Kelso's will, made in 1847, bequeathed his negro servants Anthony, Eliza and Caroline to his wife, Nancy Byrd Kelso, but with the request that she not sell them, and that she give thought to freeing them at her own death.

One of the largest slave holders in this area was Joseph Coffman, originally of Ste. Genevieve County, but who owned virtually all of Powers Island in 1850, and whose grandson, Joseph R. Coffman, established himself as a physician at Commerce about 1872. Joseph Coffman owned 116 slaves.

Next to him probably was John Rodney, a resident of the Commerce area, who owned 50 slaves. Rodney was a large land holder and a surveyor. He surveyed for both the state and the county, in fact surveyed the county lines dividing Scott from New Madrid and Mississippi counties. He also surveyed and platted West Philadelphia. He died in 1854, and both he and his wife, Rachel, are buried in the old cemetery on the hill above Commerce

Estate settlement proceedings sometimes resulted in slave sale ads being placed in Cape Girardeau County newspapers, as there was no newspaper in Scott County until 1867.

Typical is the following ad, which appeared in the Feb. 29, 1840 edition of the Jackson, Mo., "Southern Advocate."

"SLAVES FOR SALE. We will sell to the highest bidder, at the court house door, in the town of Benton, on the 3rd day of March, 1840, on a credit of 12 months, One NEGRO MAN, aged about 24 years,
One Boy about 10 years old
One Boy about 8 years old, and
One infant child, to make distribution among the heirs of Jane G. Thompson, deceased.
James F. Ross and Harrison S. Thompson, Asministrators.

Slave ownership increased sharply in Scott County in the decade before the Civil War. The census of 1850 showed Scott Countians owning 393 slaves, while the figure for 1860 was 503, for a 10-year increase 110.

In 1850, when Rodney owned 50 slaves and Coffman 200, there were only 19 slave holders in Missouri owning 50 to 100 slaves, and only 2 in the 100 to 300 slave bracket. One of the two latter owned between 200 and 300 slaves, so Coffman must have been the second largest slaveholder in the state.

Free negroes were never numerous in Scott County in the antebellum years, the total in 1850 being only 16. Nor is this scarcity difficult to understand, since no colored person was permitted to reside in Missouri without a license, and these licenses were only issued to Negroes of impeccable reputation. Even they had to make a bond of not more than $1,000 to guarantee their continued good behavior. Nor could a free Negro emigrate into Missouri unless he was in the service of a white man, or for the purpose of passing through the state. And in either of these cases, the time he could remain in the state was limited.

FRAGMENT OF A BILL OF SALE RECORDED IN BOOK 7, Warranty Deeds, THE FIRST 200 PAGES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN PARTLY DESTROYED BY FIRE

Page 30: Parsons to Allen, 1842.

"--convey to the said Allen a negro man named Saul, aged about sixty years, and a negro boy named Benjamin, about 18 months of age, and one bay filly one year old last spring, one horse colt of sorrel color, about six months old, and one clock and one bed, bedstead and bedding, six Windsor chairs, three carry (breaking) ploughs, two two-shovel ploughs, and one cart, and one yoke of oxen, and three cows and calves, and two young steers and one heifer."

Only a cart is listed in the above, indicating again the scarcity of farm wagons at that period in the history of the county.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF JOHN RODNEY'S LAST WILL & TESTAMENT

Dated October 24, 1844

To My Daughter Succeal Taylor:--I give and bequeath one negro girl named Cloe; 200 arpens of land, it being the confirmation of Nicholas Reville in Township 28N, Range 16E.; also 68 acres, it being the north subdivisional ½ of the NW. fractional ¼ of Section 18, Twp. 28, R15; also one bedstead and two silver tablespoons marked J.R.

To My Daughter Eveline Stanley:--one negro woman named Ellen and 100 arpents of land, it being the middle third part of 300 arpents confirmed to James Wilbourn, located in Sections 7 and 12, in Twp. 27 & 27, Ranges 16 and 17; also one of my bedsteads and one of my small sideboards, and one of my serving stands and two of my silver spoons marked J.R.; also I discharge her husband, James Stanley, from payment of $82, which I lent to him.

To My Son Thomas Rodney:--one negro boy named Joseph Phillibert, also a tract of land 28 poles in width off the north side of the SW and fractional SE quarters of fractional section 15, Twp. 27, R17; also that part of the NE¼ of Section 15, which lies east of the south ½ of of the NW¼, section 15, to continue east to the Mississippi River; also the NE¼ of section 9 (except that part of said quarter section, which I conveyed to Michael F. Taylor), and the south subdivisional half of the NW¼ of Section 10, Twp. 27, R17; also my surveying compass and chain and my plotting instruments, for his own use and the use of his two brothers; also his choice of my horses and his choice of my yokes of oxen, and one undivided half of my wagon, and two cows, and his choice of 10 head of my hogs, and my old silver watch; also one table and my old desk and one of my best plows and gear.

To My Son William Rodney:--my negro boy named Anthony and the plantation and land I now reside on, it being the East subdivisional half of the SE fractional ¼ of fractional Section 18 and E½ of the NE¼ of Section 18 and the E½ of the NE¼ of Section 19, all in Twp. 28, Range 15E, and also 200 arpents of land conveyed to me by Nathaniel Wickliffe, it being Survey 587 confirmed to James Currin under Josiah Quimby, situate on the bank of the Mississippi River in Scott County, Mo., in Twp. 28 & 28 of Ranges 14 and 15; also second choice of my horses and my yokes of oxen; also two cows and one of my best plows and gear, and one bed and bedstead and bedding, and my rifle gun and ten hogs, and one undivided half of my wagon, also my writing desk and a table, and my repeating watch.

To My Daughter Mary Rodney:--my negro woman Celey, also the SW¼ of the E½ of the NW¼ of Section 9, Twp. 27N., R17E; also one bedstead, a bed and bedding, and one of my small sideboards, one table and one sewing stand, and two silver tablespoons marked J.R., and a box of teaspoons, and two cows and 3rd choice of my horses and a woman's saddle.

To My Son Martin Van Buren Rodney:--my negro girl Jane and my negro boy George, and also all the land I own on the southwest and fractional southeast quarters of fractional Section 15, except that part of said quarter sections that is herein given to Thomas Rodney; and also to Martin Van Buren Rodney that part of the NE¼ of Section 15, which lies east of the N½ of the NW¼ of said Section 15 and the river, and also the SE¼ of Section 9 and the fractional SW¼ of Section 10 in Twp. 27, Range 17. I also bequesth to Martin Van Buren Rodney a support maintenance and education until he arrives at the age of twenty-one.

THE BALANCE OF MY ESTATE, of a perishable nature, I request my executors to sell, publically or privately, except the negroes Isaac, Leah, Angelina, Betsey, Vicey and Linda. They are to be bound out in Cape

Girardeau County (but not in any woodyard or to go on or about the river), and the proceeds of their hire and the proceeds of my personal estate, when collected, be put at interest and part of the principal to be obtained to educate and support Martin Van Buren Rodney, and to clothe and support Mary Rodney, in case she should need it, until she arrives at the age of twenty-one or may marry. ALL THE BALANCE OF MY REAL ESTATE OF LAND in Scott and Cape Girardeau counties shall be advertised and sold, or sold privately. After my son Martin Van Buren Rodney arrives at the age of twenty-one, all my negroes that have not been sold or bequeathed, are to be sold at public or private sale.

THE REMAINING THREE SMALL NEGROES, Wash, Ann and Rob, unless some of the heirs will keep them for little or no expenses, may be sold at public or private sale. Signed: John Rodney

Witnesses: A.P. RODNEY JOHN P. RODNEY
ZALMA BLOCK MARTIN RODNEY

CODICIL DATED JULY 6, 1845 rescinded the above order for disposing of the slave children. Instead, Vicey, Eveline, Ann, "which is the child of Ellen," Lynda, Betsey and Rob, "a mulatto, the first child of negro woman Celey," and Wash, "the son of Ellen," were to be distributed among the heirs, in fact in several instances were already living with them.

The codicil was witnessed by John P. Hunt, Richard N. Graham, William H. Harrison and Martin Rodney.

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This will, involving the estate of one of Scott County's wealthiest men of that period, is extremely interesting for a number of reasons. For example, we noted the lack of wagons in the Thomas Water estate. Now, nearly forty years later, we find John Rodney owning only one wagon, despite his vast farming interests, and considering it of

such value that he gave his two sons each a half interest in it. Apparently they were still using sleds, as was the case in Waters' time.

Too, he refers to his home plantation as "being situated on the bank of the Mississippi River." Now it is on the bank of Doolan's Chute, which is quite small and at present dry, although not too many years ago it was a running stream during high water and served to separate Powers Island from the mainland. Apparently it was a much more significant channel in Rodney's day.

THE LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF JOSEPH COFFMAN

This will is included, not only because of its inherent interest, but also for its connection with Scott County, where Joseph Coffman owned several large tracts of land, and where two of his heirs and descendants, Dr. John R. Coffman and Dr. Hugh Thomas Blackledge, came to reside.

The principal bequests of the Joseph Coffman will are as follows: Nov. 19, 1856

"1. To my son Ralph Coffman," cancellation of unspecified amounts of unpaid debts. (Ralph then resided in Madisonville, Mississippi.)

2. To my son John Coffman--the plantation on which I now reside containing 3,356 acres--all in Ste. Genevieve County. Also all of the land I own on Powers Island in the County of Scott, consisting of about 7,750 acres lying in Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17 and 18 in Township 28 N. of Range 15 E., and in Section 32 in Township 29 N. of Range 15 E.

3. To my daughter Mildred Blackledge--The plantation on which she with her husband Hiram Blackledge now reside, containing 320 acres, and located in Ste. Genevieve County. Also the following land in Scott and Mississippi counties, opposite Wilborne's and Buffalo islands, containing 1,112 acres.(The Scott County portion of this was in the southeasternmost corner of the county.)

Also the following slaves: Peyton, Sally, and Martha and her 7 children, including Sam and Nelson; Charles and his wife Louisa, Wilson and his wife Sarah, with their two children, Jane and Rosetta; Charity, Bet--the last named now at the Pratte farm, and her five children; Celia (Peyton's wife) and her two children Washington and Smith--making in all twenty-seven (27).

4. To my son Joseph--The plantation called Spring Hill, on Saline Creek,

containing about 1,664 acres. Also 880 acres below the mouth of the Ohio River in Mississippi County. (Total acreage left to Joseph was 2,644.)

Also the following slaves: Jim and his wife with their seven children (the oldest named Julia Ann), Johnson, Henderson, Caroline & her child Adeline and her three children; George and his wife Melinda with her six children, and Ben, making in all 26 slaves.

5. All the rest and residue of my slaves, not herein before disposed of, I give and bequeath to my son John Coffman. (Apparently, as we shall see, John heired about 116 slaves.)

6. I give and devise to my grand children (the children of my son Ralph Coffman , to wit: John R., Mary E., Joseph, Charles M., Eliza and Virginia) the following lands: 432 acres opposite Wolf Island in Mississippi County, also 720 acres in the Southeast corner of Scott County.

I also give my seven above named grand children $14,000, that is to say, $2,000 to each of said seven grand children.

7. I give to my two grand children Mary J. Smith and Narcissus Watson, 440 acres in Randolph County, Arkansas.

I also give these two grand children $1,500 each in cash.

8. I give to my three grand children, Mary Pratte, Joseph Pratte, and Bernard Pratte equal interests in the plantation on the river Aux Vase, known as the Belle Fountain tract, containing 1,480 acres.

I also give each of the above named grand children $1,500 in cash. And I do further give to Mary Pratte, a negro girl named Harriet nine or ten years old, being the child of Harriet, now dead.

9. My executor, John Coffman, shall sell the interest I own in the mill property of Horrine & Coffman, with the lands adjoining, also my interest in certain land sold in Sheriff's Sale as the property of Thomas Madden, Jr.; also all of the perishable part of my estate, such as horses, mules, cattle of every description, plantation tools, household and kitchen furniture, crops on hand, and all other personal property, not herein otherwise disposed of, to receive and collect the proceeds of said sales, together with all other sums of money which may be due me by bond account, or otherwise.

10. As to all of the rest and residue of my estate, not herein before given and bequeathed, I do hereby give, devise, and bequeath unto my sons John and Joseph Coffman, and my daughter, Mildred Blackledge."

Witnesses: L.C. Menard, Charles Bisch, A.E. St. Gemme, L.B. St. Gemme.

The biography of Dr. John R. Coffman of Commerce, as given in "Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri," states that Joseph Coffman, Sr., died in 1856. Also that John Coffman, son of Joseph Coffman, Sr., and father of Dr. John R. Coffman, lost $75,000 through the freeing of his 116 slaves at the close of the Civil War.

Dr. John R. Coffman spent 4 years in study at Washington University, 4 years at St. Louis Medical College, and 1 year at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of New York. He came to Commerce in 1875 and built a home there about the year 1883. [redacted] He died at Commerce in 1894, at the age of 40, and is buried in the old cemetery on the hill overlooking Commerce.

[redacted]

The county tax assessment records show Mildred Blackledge, daughter of Joseph Coffman and wife of Hiram Blackledge, being assessed for taxes on several tracts of land in Scott County, and on a lot in Commerce.

Dr. Hugh Thomas Blackledge, about the year 1893, built his southern colonial style mansion on Lot 90 in Commerce. This is still standing, and is yet one of the most attractive homes in Commerce.

There is a deed, too, on record at Benton (dated June 4, 1879) that lists the members of the Blackledge family as Mildred Blackledge, Hiram Blackledge, her husband; Mary Jane Blackledge, Charles Henry Blackledge and Hugh Thomas Blackledge, the latter presumably all children of Mildred and Hiram.

The Taylors and the Hutsons mentioned in the Broom will continued to reside in the Commerce-Scott City area for many years. One branch of the Taylor family, for example, on a farm located at the southern edge of what is now Lightner's Cemetery, their own family cemetery being located just southwest of the modern cemetery.

The Hutsons, too, continued to figure in affairs at Commerce, Charles Hutson, for example, purchasing a stave mill there Oct. 18, 1869. He paid $1,200 for this "stave factory and cooper shop, staves, barrels and cooper's tools," and operated the facility under the firm name of Charles E. Hutson & Co.

Strong Hutson became prominent in county affairs, but his first claim to fame came on Nov. 18, 1833, when the county court "ordered that Strong N. Hutson be fined in the sum of ten dollars for disorderly conduct and profane swearing in the presence of the court."

Probably the dignity of the court was not so challenged again until March 3, 1851, when the honorable justices of the court ordered "the County Attorney to ascertain if possible, the persons who overthrew the necessary belonging to the county and to prosecute the same to the extent of the law."

Historians previously have not determined who was the first resident physician at Commerce. However, in the course of probing out and excavating buried monuments in the old Commerce Cemetery, Eugene Diebold and I came across a marble slab that had been laid over the grave of Elizabeth Smith, of Warwickshire, England, "consort of William Docker, M.D., Surgeon and c.," who had died Nov. 4, 1844.

Research in county land records showed that William Docker paid $800 for Lot No. 5 in Commerce, and made this, his first purchase, on April 5, 1841. Then, in 1856, he purchased several lots from James and Nancy Powell, paying $1,250 for them. Nancy Powell, incidentally, was

originally Nancy Byrd. She first married Edward Kelso, and after his death, became the wife of Powell.

A document dated Jan. 6, 1858, shows Benjamin Silman, acting as the administrator of the estate of William Docker, deceased, selling a number of lots in Commerce to George Fricke for $671. Which, of course, suggests that Docker died in 1857.

Benjamin Gaither, as we mentioned earlier, established a tanyard in Commerce in [illegible] 1845. And he, like his predecessor in that business, made use of apprentices to assist him in his work. An order of the county court dated Aug. 7, 1850 shows that "Hiram Milford Kinnison who was 10 years of age on Dec. 1, 1849, and whose parents are dead, is ordered bound apprentice to Benjamin B. Gaither to learn the art and trade of tanner and currier until the age of 21 years and that he enter into indenture according to law."

Steamboat traffic did not affect Commerce to any extent until the 1830s. For one thing, not much bulk freight was transported on these boats until that decade. Corn in sacks, for example, was not handled by the boats until 1833. Prior to that, corn could only be sold abroad by shipping it downriver on flatboats, which was an expensive and time consuming proposition that only traders or the more wealthy plantation owners could afford.

It is safe to assume, too, that most of the houses erected in Commerce prior to 1836 were of log construction, for only the wealthy could afford hand-sawn siding and lumber of the type the Waters family used in constructing their home.

By 1837 the steam-powered sawmill at West Philadelphia was turning out both the lumber and shingles necessary for buildings of frame construction, and the old river road between Commerce and West Philadelphia gave Commerce residents convenient access to these materials.

In addition, a layer of handmade bricks was placed underneath the 1844 Elizabeth Smith grave marker slab, so we know that by then handmade bricks were available in Commerce. With the availability of these more durable materials, better homes and business houses began to be erected in Commerce. But unfortunately not many of these 1840 to 1860 buildings have survived.

Among those that have are the Jim Ross home located on Lot 53 on Tywappity Street; the Robert Heuchan home on Lots 12 and 13, Silman's addition; the Benjamin Gaither Home on Lot 1, Silman's addition; the Charles Kew business house on Lot No. 8 on Water Street; the Anderson house on Lot No. 2 at the north end of Water Street, and the John R. Doom home on Lot 9, Silman's Addition.

Approximate dates of construction of these, as told to me by Joseph L. Moore in 1947, were as follows: the Robert Heuchan house, about 1860; the Benjamin Gaither house, about 1850; the Jim Ross house, in 1847 or 1848; the Charles Kew building about the year 1850, and the John R. Doom home in 1857.

Miss Margaret Mates of Southeast Missouri University made an in depth study of the history of the Anderson house, now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Beardslee. Her findings indicate that a house was built on this site (Lot No. 2) prior to 1842, but that the first brick construction was done by John Brown in 1844 or 1845. The remainder of the house appears to have been built between 1850 and June of 1857, when Ignatius R. Wathen sold it to James N. Whitelaw for $3,000, a considerable sum in those days, and indicating quite clearly that by then a valuable home was occupying the site.

James N. Whitelaw and Cyrus Eversole bought the Grand Chain flouring mill that Ignatius R. Wathen had built in 1856. Whitelaw's home was mortgaged as part of the collateral needed to obtain a loan of $31,000 he and Eversole had to have in order to purchase the mill.

They obtained this money from the New Orleans firm of Horrell, Gayle & Co., or, more likely the loan had been made to Wathen and then assumed by Whitelaw and Eversole. At any rate, on Oct. 17, 1859 it was taken over by John W. Gayle, representing Horrell, Gayle & Co.

This document, in addition to the house on Lot 2 and the mill on Lot No. 123 and the north half of Lot No. 124, included "a certain amount of cordwood, coal, staves, elevator, safe, gunny bags, flour bags, wheat sacks and flour barrels."

Probably the mill closed down during the war, since all downriver markets were shut off during most of that conflict. At any rate, Gayle was unable to sell the mill and house until Sept. of 1865, when they were purchased by George H. Watson for $15,000.

When the Commerce Dispatch began appearing in 1867, the Grand Chain Mill, "George H. Watson, Proprietor," ads began telling the readers that the firm had "flour of a desirable brand," also would pay the "Highest Market Prices for all kinds of grain," and that they were "engaged in a large merchant and shipping business." The 1867 ads no where say that they are manufacturing flour, nor does the "desirable brand" indicate that, as it is a phrase that would be apt to be used by a firm that was selling flour made by other mills. Possibly the milling machinery had been damaged or destroyed during the war. If so, that would explain the peculiar wording of these ads.

UNDATED BILL OF SALE (apparently 1840), Richard Wathen to Ignatius R. Wathen. Amount involved $2,800.

Richard and Ignatius R. floated a loan with the firm of Ellis and Cannon (Alfred P. Ellis and James Cannon), and through them, loans were obtained from the heirs of Abraham Daugherty and Johnson Ranney.

Involved in the transaction was Lot No. 12 in Commerce. Also one female slave named Lavina, about 35 years old; one slave named Eliza, about 12 years old, and one named Matilda, about 7 years old. Also one horse named Robin, one dearborn (a light, 4-wheeled passenger carriage or wagon equipped with side curtains), one water carriage (a boat, probably in this case for the hauling of passengers and baggage out to steamboats or across the river), one yoke of oxen, one wagon and three cows.

FURNITURE:

1 high post bedstead, poplar
1 high post bedstead, cherry
1 low post cherry bedstead
2 new single (?) turned post bedsteads
3 common plain bedsteads
5 feather beds & bedding
1 horsehair mattress
4 shuck mattresses
1 small sideboard
2 mahogany veneered bureaus
4 cherry dining tables
1 center table
2 common cherry dining tables
24 Windsor chairs, round back
12 straight back Windsor chairs
1 arm chair
3 brass fire fenders
1 poplar prep (?)
1 poplar table
1 settee
1 mantle clock
2 (?) glass shades
1 poplar safe
2 small looking glasses
2 sets of china
2 sets of cutlery
1 (?) cooking stove & outfit
1 brass 8-day clock
1 work stand.

TOTALS

8 bedsteads
10 mattresses
6 dining tables
37 side chairs
2 sets of china
2 sets of cutlery

What was Richard Wathen doing with this unusual lot of furniture and accessories, and what was on Lot No. 12 in Commerce at that time?

A very large, 2-story frame house, with pyramidal hip roof surmounted by a river view cupola, was erected on Lot 12 about the year 1819. About the time of the Civil War it was owned by Cyrus Eversol and his wife, Sarah, and thenceforth was known as the "Eversol House." Unfortunately it was torn down about 1955, but pictures of it have survived, in fact, one made in 1916 is now in my possession.

After the Eversol ownership, the house, on occasion, was used as a "rooming house," for which, because of its size, it was well suited. And I am convinced that Richard Wathen also was using it for a similar purpose, probably as a sort of hotel and tavern. No other explanation would account for the need for six dining tables, 37 side chairs, eight beds and ten mattresses.

The dearborn could have been used for hauling patrons and their luggage to nearby towns, and the "water carriage" for meeting steamboats for a similar purpose. The high cupola, of course, gave him an excellent view up and down the river, and hence would have given him ample time to row out to these boats.

The price of $2,800 for all of this may seem low, but a great deflation depression was underway in the U.S. at that time, and prices were much reduced on almost everything.

This, in all probability, was the first real hotel and dining facility erected in Scott County. Some log cabin taverns had existed before, but could hardly be dignified with the name of hotel. Hence, we are fortunate to have in this document a reasonably complete itemized list of the furnishings of this pioneer hostelry.

There are no records of the effects of the great cholera epidemics of 1832-1833 and 1849-1852 on the citizens of Commerce. However, the records of the Eisleben Lutheran Church in Scott City, which date back to the 1852 epidemic, have recently been translated out of the German language into English through the efforts of Mrs. Gilbert Bruhl, Mrs. Martin Roth and Louis H. Bauer, with Mr. Bauer doing the actual translating.

These records are, I believe, unique in Scott County, and of such interest that they have been made a part of this history.

"Personal Records of those in the Eisleben congregation who died of cholera from 24 July 1852--2 August, presented on the 9th Sunday past Trinity, 7 August 1852 in public service.

In Christ dearly beloved! It has pleased God the Almighty to afflict this our congregation in a terrible way. In the period of a week and some days the congregation has, through the fearful cholera, been decreased by about a third of its adult members and we still do not know whether these are to be the last victims.

Therefore you will construe that my intention is good of I convert today's service entirely to a memorial service for the blessed deceased to their last honor.

Mr. Wilhelmine Charolette Vornfeldt, widow of Joh. Heinrich Vornfeldt, who died in the previous year, died 24 July at 2 a.m. after she was sick not longer than 20 hours of the terrible epidemic cholera. She was born 29 October 1808 in Loebern, district of Luebbecke, government district of Minden, Westphalen, Germany. Her father's name was Schroeder. Her age was 43 years, 8 months and 25 days.

Mr. Carl Friedrich Uelsmann died soon after; namely, at 12:30 a.m.. 26-27 July also of the cholera. The duration of his sickness might have touched about 26 hours. He was born in Holzhausen, Germany, on 14 April 1789.

Elisa Henriette Thoele, the youngest daughter of the deceased Heinrich Thoele and his wife Maria Sophie Thoele, died of cholera after 12 hours of sickness on 29 July at midnight and was born on 5 April 1850.

Further it has pleased God to take to himself our brother August Justus Hillemann. He died after somewhat more than 4 days sickness last Sunday 1 August toward 2 p.m. of the same sickness. He was born on 7 August 1813 at Sudheim by Northeim, kingdon of Hanover. His age was 38 years, 11 months and 25 days.

On Monday 2 August 1852 toward 3 in the morning Gerhardt Heinrich Thoele also died of the same sickness. He was born 8 October 1819 in Blasheim, district of Luebbecke, Germany. He had reached the age of 32 years, 9 months and 25 days.

On 6 August 1852 at 5 a.m. Elisa Hermine, daughter of the deceased August Hillemann, died after a sickness of a few days. She was born 13 March 1850. She reached the age of 2 years, 3 months, 24 days.

Further on 13 August 1852 at 11 a.m. Dorothea Louise Ilsebein, daughter of the deceased Mr. Gerhardt Thoele, died after 9 days sickness as a consequence of cholera. She was born in Blasheim on 1 December 1844. She had attained the age of 9 years, 8 months and 13 days."

The translated Eisleben Church Records begin with an entry dated Feb. 27, 1848, and end with one dated Feb. 12, 1871. The first pastor was A. Lehmann, who served from Feb., 1848 to May, 1855, and consequently was the pastor who delivered the memorial service for the cholera victims.

So few of the records of the early churches of Scott County have survived that, it seemed to me that the following routine entries from the records of the Eisleben Lutheran Church, Illmo, Mo., should be included in this history to show how the business affairs of one of these early churches were handled. What follows from these records was kindly supplied to me by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bruhl.

"Congregation meeting on 22 December 1867.

Daniel Ruebel elected chairman and Henry Brentzel was elected secretary.

The president's answer to the letter read to the effect that Pastor Klockemeyer himself had resigned from our synod, therefore he was removed from his church duties. The proposal was then made that Pastor Stuelpnagel should be issued a call, whereupon it was approved by a majority for the call. It was further decided that the pastor's yearly pay shall be $350 including his living quarters."

"Congregation meeting on 1 January 1868.

"Receipts and expenditures were read, whereupon it became apparent that there remains in the church account: Nothing.

It was decided that those who had not brought rails and had not helped with the fencing of the five acres here shall fence the church yard in the old church. (This latter was the old log church in what later became Fornfelt.)

Charles Koch (the potter) was reelected president and Daniel Ruebel and David Roth were continued as trustees.

Further it was decided that the church shall be completed as soon as the weather permits.

Further it was authorized by the decision of the majority that the old church be sold for the best offer, which was made by

Mr. Vordenfeld, who paid 21 dollars and 75 cents for it.

"Congregation meeting on Feb. 5, 1869.

Elected chairman Heinrich Uelsmann; as secretary Henry Brentzel. The sale of the 1.5 acres of land by the old church brought, from the highest bid of Mr. Vordenfeld, 18 dollars and 10 cents.

Decided by a majority that the barn and stall shall be torn down and half thereof to be sold. Mr. Philip Ruebel having submitted the highest bid of 26 dollars and 60 cents, the sale was awarded to him."

Congregation meeting on Laetare Sunday 1868.

Mr. Ebert was accepted as a voting member of the congregation, whereupon he signed the constitution.

Council member D. Roth stated that the sand for the new building must be gone for which he was ready to account for.

Then it was stated to the congregation that it was most proper if the pastor take the plasterer in the cost; thereupon, the pastor agreed that those members of the congregation who had foodstuff left over will be offered him as compensation. Then it was decided that on next Thursday before the Passion sermon the church site shall be worked on and that D. Ruebel shall order those in arrears to work. After that the subscription for the pastor's pay shall begin from 1 January."

AN EPISODE IN THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC OF THE YEAR 1849

"The disease had been brought to New Orleans in emigrant ships early in December, 1848, and in a few weeks was carried to all the principal cities on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. During the last week of December several boats with cholera on board arrived in St. Louis, one of them being the steamer Amaranth, which arrived on the 28th with no less than thirty cases among its passengers and crew. On Jan. 23, 1849, the steamers Aleck Scott and St. Paul arrived here, having left New Orleans on the 26th ult. The former reported forty-six cases of cholera on the trip, six of them fatal; the latter, twenty-six cases and four deaths." (Ency. of the Hist. of Mo., Epidemics.)

The steamer America, which came upriver in May, reported that 22 passengers had died on board since her departure from New Orleans. And the ill-fated Sultana, the explosion and sinking of which killed 1,450 on April 27, 1865, landed at St. Louis on June 17, 1849 "with between 300 and 400 immigrants. Twenty-five deaths had occurred during the trip, and on her arrival she had six dead bodies still on board."

Among her passengers were sixteen young Irish monks headed for the newly founded Our Lady of New Melleray Abbey, a Trappist monastery that had been founded early in 1849 on a 3,200-acre tract a few miles southwest of Dubuque, Iowa, and was being staffed by young monks from the old Melleray Abbey in Ireland.

The young monks made the trip upriver on the Sultana, and six of them died before the ship passed through the narrows at the Grand Chain, and were buried on a hill just northwest of the Chain.

The old cemetery where they were buried is located a few hundred yards northwest of the Thebes-Scott City railroad bridge. Some thirty or so years ago the Missouri Historical Society contacted Albion

Anderson, of Commerce, in an effort to learn the location of these graves. Mr. Anderson consulted David A. Miller, whose family had resided on a farm near the old Thebes bridge cemetery since 1848, and learned that that was where the young monks had been buried.

Mr. Miller, a good and kind man, who always manifested a great interest in local history, died Dec. 1, 1982, at the age of 98.

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EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE ON THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

IN COMMERCE, MO.

(Neighbor Day Edition of the Scott County Democrat. Oct. 3, 1935, Sec. 2.)

"By August 16 (1861) the citizens were willing to forsake everything for the purpose of getting away for personal safety. Several had deserted their homes and had left for the hills north of town, across the river to Santa Fe, and on Burman's Island, out in the river from the village. Lieutenant R.N. Stembel entered Commerce on the United States gunboat Lexington August 16 and took a large number of men, women and children, together with a large amount of merchandise and household goods, on board and carried them to Cape Girardeau. He returned the next day with some Commerce men to the village and discovered some Confederate soldiers. He fired a 34 pound cannister shot and a 64 pound shell at the troops, who fled and retreated for Benton. Colonel Wagner instructed Stembel to have his engineers remove a piston rod, and a cylinder head from the flouring mill, as it might be used by the rebels. According to Dr. J.D. Porterfield, this mill belonged to Eversol, who had vacated his home and lived across the river.

Mr. Eversol owned a large steam mill in the town and, unfortunately, had a large stock of grain stored in his warehouse, which was confiscated by the rebel force near the latter part of August. It is estimated that over fifty loads of corn were carried out of the mill and used in the rebel camp.

In the records of the government reports of the Civil War, John Rodgers, in a letter to Major-General Fremont, states that the village of Commerce was in the hands of about 600 rebels on Aug. 21st, who carried out of the mill about 45 loads of corn. In describing the

situation on Aug. 22, he says: 'The rebels amused themselves this evening by opening a brisk fire with small arms upon this vessel from the hills overlooking Commerce. A couple of well directed shells sent them away.' In discussing this position, he continues, 'I do not see that any important military object would be gained by holding possession of the town, further than embarassing the navigation of the river; yet the people's property is entitled to protection. I would prefer to keep a boat generally here.'

The people continued to leave the town in large numbers, the majority crossing the river to Santa Fe by boats and skiffs. The U.S. Gunboat Tyler transported several of the citizens across the river. After firing on the rebels in the afternoon of the 22nd, John Rodgers went ashore, and according to reports, 'took a few women and children, who remained in Commerce on the boat, the men already having taken refuge on the opposite shore.'

The guerillas continued their destructive work in August and on Oct. 20th they had committed several cowardly deeds in Commerce. The United States Navy perhaps prevented them from completely destroying the town. This boat remained on the river throughout the winter. In November, 1861, Jeff Thompson, with several men, attempted to stop navigation of the river at Big Island by firing on the passing boats, but were unsuccessful and the Federal boats remained at Commerce.

After Jeff Thompson left New Madrid and Col. Oglesby, with aome 4,000 or 5,000 Illinois troops disembarked at Commerce, the Confederates caused little trouble in the town.

Jonah Clymer tells the story of Oglesby's landing at Commerce in the following manner: 'My brother and I were at the river when he

landed with his men and several horses. We watched them unload and it took several hours for them to get ready for the march, during which time his men camped out near Jackson Hill. After they left, my brother and I helped to catch some of the horses that had broken loose from his men. We went out at the camp and saw nearly a wagon load of old clothes and other material that his men had left on the ground.'

After Oglesby's march through the country, there continued to exist guerilla warfare in the community. Mrs. H.T. Blackledge of Commerce explains the terror caused by the guerillas in this manner:

'Although I was born after the Civil War, I still recall many of the stories my parents told me. One story in particular is strikingly true of the terrible things that existed in Commerce. When my parents lived near Morley and were merchants in a small country store there, they were continually afraid of the guerillas. One evening a large company of men entered the store, took provisions and supplies, and then broke into the crib and fed a large amount of corn to their horses. In the night they asked my mother to arrange for a dance. When she explained that there were no girls in the community, the soldiers took her clothing from the dresser and put them on, dancing in them until late in the night. The next morning they ate their breakfast from our store, our kitchen and our poultry yard. As they were riding away two rough looking men grabbed my two year old brother, C.E., and carried him away. My mother thought he would never be brought back. After a few hours the men returned with him and left him at the frontgate.'

The guerilla army stole horses, chickens, cows and property from several people in Commerce. They were residents of Scott and adjoining

counties and on several occasions the farmers and citizens of Commerce detected their identity. On October 20th Lieutenant-Commander Shirk, U.S. Navy, in command of the U.S. Gunboat Lexington, arrived in Commerce after Colonel Preston in command of about 200 guerillas, had robbed several stores in town. He states in his report that about $2,000 worth of merchandise was stolen from the stores. He says they also took about twenty young men from the State Militia prisoners and that one of these young men, Kane, was a scout of the Union forces in Commerce. The guerilla camp was located west of Bertrand at the ferry."

A statement in Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bruhl's "Family Rubel" illuminates the situation prevailing in Scott County as the result of these guerilla raids. There they indicate that the Daniel Rubel family habitually took their cows and "cooped chickens" to the fields with them when they were working, to keep them from being stolen by marauding soldiers while they were away from home.

Still further light is shed on this situation by a paragraph in Wm. G. Bragg's biography in Douglass' "Hist. of SE. Mo.," wherein Mr. Bragg tells that when his "family came to Kennett in 1865, they came down the Mississippi river to Cape Girardeau, where a two-horse wagon met them, that being the only two-horse wagon in the whole (of Dunklin) county. On their journey to Kennett they met and passed ox teams in plenty, but no horse wagons. For a long time after this when any of the family had occasion to go from Kennett to Cape Girardeau they used ox teams, sometimes taking eighteen days to make the trip."

Neither army fancied ox cavalry nor transport, but all horses and mules were commandeered, and hence their post-war absence from

all of the ungarrisoned areas in Scott, Stoddard, Dunklin, Pemiscot and New Madrid counties.

Mrs. Blackledge's mention of her parent's "small country store" near Morley, referred, of course, to a time anterior to the founding of Morley, and the store consequently may well have been located in Maxville or Brockville, if they were indeed separate and distinct villages, which I have come to doubt.

If it were at times necessary for the residents of relatively well protected Commerce to seek refuge in Illinois or elsewhere, as this article makes clear that on occasion it was, then we can readily perceive how much more necessary it was for the citizens of unprotected settlements, such as Benton, Cypress, Sikeston and New Hamburg, to flee to places of safety. Hence, it is not surprising that our research for this history has revealed that these towns were, in fact, virtually depopulated places by the time the war ended.

One further item in connection with the Scott County Democrat article, and that, I believe, not the least interesting one:

Some four or five months before I came into possession of this article, I learned, in a conversation with Mrs. Louise Payne, of Chaffee, that her aunt, Mrs. Robert Miller, had once resided on a farm at the foot of Jackson Hill, and while living there in the 1920s, had often found cartridge boxes and other military accoutrements of Civil War vintage at one site on or near Jackson Hill.

The story intrigued me, so, in company with Mrs. Payne, Dallas Grubb and Jim Burton, an unsuccessful attempt was made to locate this site. Now, because of the corroborating information the author of this article obtained from Jonah Clymer, further investigations of this site will be made during the coming year.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SCOTT COUNTY

Twice in the first year of the war Commerce was the staging area for major Union expeditions into Southeastern Missouri. Beyond that, the war here was a matter of small skirmishes, guerilla and bushwhacking activities, thievery, arson, destruction, illegal searches, seizures and imprisonments; in fact all forms of outlawry including murder.

Scouting parties crisscrossed the county frequently, and their collisions account for the relatively numerous skirmishes that occurred almost throughout the war. A Partial list of these skirmishes follows.

1861 Aug. 7-10: Expedition of Illinois 20th Infantry, Co. F, and Mo. 8th Infantry, Co. F. to Price's Landing, Commerce, Benton and New Hamburg

Aug. 11: Affair at New Hamburg, Mo. Home Guards

Oct. 18: Affair at Price's Landing: Attack on Steamboat Platte Valley. Jeffers at Commerce with 500 men.

Dec. 28: Jeff Thompson's descent on Commerce.

1862 Mar. 1: Skirmish at Sikeston. Union loss, 1 missing.

Aug. 31: Skirmish, Little River Bridge.

1863

1864 June 7: Affair, Sikeston. 2nd Mo. State Militia Cavalry (detachment)

Sept. 22: Skirmish, Sikeston, 2nd Mo. State Militia Cavalry (detachment)

Nov. 6: Skirmish, Sikeston, 2nd Mo. State Militia Cavalry (detachment)

Dec. 18: Skirmish, Little River. Tanner's Co., Mo. Enrolled Militia.

No doubt there were other minor brushes where a few shots were exchanged. However, these are all I have found listed in authentic sources, and it may even be that the Little River skirmishes were not within the borders of Scott County. Still, we know there were other skirmishes, because several not recorded in this list are mentioned in "The History of the New Hamburg, Mo., Parish."

The first mentioned therein, is that of Aug. 11, 1861, which is in the list.

Brig. Gen. M. Jeff. Thompson's report of this affray is contained in a letter datelined "Camp Whitewater, Mo., Aug. 12, 1861."

"Dear General:

Yours of yesterday was received about 9 o'clock last night, and gave us unusual satisfaction. I had planned to retreat. I will now advance, and make my headquarters in Sikeston, encamping my men at the nearest water, and will commence work on the railroad immediately. The preseident and engineer of the road are in my camp, and I will intrust them with the job of destroying it. Expecting to have to retire, I sent my dragoons over the river to gather transportation. The temptation to have a brush before leaving was too great, and they charged into the town of Hamburg, scattering the Dutch in all directions. My men fired at them as they ran through the fields, although unarmed, and killed one, mortally wounded 5, seriously wounded several others and brought away 13 prisoners and 25 horses. These men were the Federal Home Guards, but the attack was so unexpected, that they did not find their guns to fight, but as they kept them secreted, our men only got five.

Yours, respectfully,
M. Jeff. Thompson"

The New Hamburg history tells us that the 13 taken prisoner were "John Glaus, Joseph Glastetter, Andrew Wilhelm, Louis Dannenmueller, Philip Halter, Peter Vogt, John Mahan, Andrew Forness, Ulrich Glaus, David Halter, Joseph Marcks, Wolfgang Dirnberger and Frank Kranz."

These, the New Hamburg historian adds, "were taken across the Little River. Below Sikeston they were guarded and were obliged to lie in the bush. After the third day they got something to eat. No one knew what they intended to do with them. After three weeks they had to swear that they would no longer bear arms against the South and were released."

A second report bearing on the New Hamburg affair is that of Union Major John McDonald, datelined "Camp Fremont, Cape Girardeau, Mo., Aug. 12, 1861."

"Sir:

Agreeably to instructions, I proceeded in command of two companies (F, 8th Regiment of Mo. Volunteers, and F, 20th Illinois), on board steamer Luella, on the night of the 7th instant, for Price's Landing, on the Mississippi, about 25 miles from here. Landed my command about two miles on this side of Price's Landing, and took up a line of march through the woods and corn fields to Price's residence, where I arrived at 2 o'clock a.m.; surrounded his premises, and at daylight entered his house, expecting to find him there; was however doomed to disappointment, as he had not yet returned from his camp, which is said to be established 14 miles south of his residence, with a force of 1,100 rebels; apprehended then as prisoners his son (Wm. Price), who it is said hold the rank of captain under his father, and his son-in-law: found in his warehouse a quantity of provisions, marked "General Price, Charleston, Mo." Among the lot were 20 barrels, containing in the center firkins of butter, on top of which were potatoes and oats, in order to deceive the public. This, together with other provisions, which were intended for the rebel camp, with the exception of 6 or 7 firkins of butter (which I had the honor to turn over to you), I caused to be burned, having no means of transportation to bring it all with me. I did also take the teams which I found ready to haul these provisions to the rebels, together with one teamster.

I left there about 8 a.m. same day for Commerce; halted on the route about 3 miles above Price's, where I had been informed I would find one of Price's leaders, but on my arrival I learned from his family that he was in Price's camp. I took there several head of stock, which his

servants told me were intended for the rebel camp; after which I proceeded on my way to Commerce, and arrived there at 3 p.m. While there I apprehended two rebels, one of them known as the 'Rebel Post Office,' a notorious rascal.

I proceeded from thence to Benton, 8 miles west of Commerce. I was, however, informed on the way that I would find there Jeff Thompson with 1,100 rebels, but on my arrival found that there had been only two or three hundred, who on learning of our approach, fled to General Pillow's camp, 48 miles from Benton. Halted at Benton until the following morning, when I found two teams belonging to parties who had been in Jeff. Thompson's camp for over three months.

I then proceeded to Hamburg, about 5 miles northwest of Benton, where I was told I would find 1,400 rebels, but on my arrival there I found the place deserted of all male inhabitants, who were apprehending an attack from the above rebels. Receiving this information, I concluded to remain there 24 hours at the urgent request of the deserted families, and, at the same time await their arrival, I did, of course, make the necessary preparations to receive them; but obtaining no positive information of their whereabouts, I concluded to return to our camp, where I arrived on the 10th instant at 4 p.m."

Major John McDonald.

McDonald, as you will note, left New Hamburg the day before the disastrous raid on that place. As a matter of fact, his expedition seems to have degenerated into a harassment and horse stealing operation. Jeff. Thompson's report datelined "Camp Sikeston, Aug. 14, 1861," throws a little more light on McDonald's activities.

"General (Pillow): The enemy, before retiring from Benton, burned Parrott's Mill, which has been our main reliance, and there is no

mill of consequence now in Scott County, except a splendid mill in Commerce. There are high bluffs at Commerce, the river is narrow, and the channel runs near our shore. If we had only guns sufficient to hold it, it should be taken, by all means, before the enemy estimates its value or prepares to hold it. Cape Girardeau will then rely only on St. Louis for support, and probably also can be taken before Saturday night."

M. Jeff. Thompson,
Brigadier-General

M. Jeff. Thompson to Capt. Charles Price, dateline "Camp Sikeston, Aug. 16, 1861." "You must send us some more goods and transportation from the neighborhood of Charleston and the country stores around that point of country. We need clothes, boots, shoes, candles, soap, and many other articles. Prevent private stealing and personal revenge, but remember we are at war, and must be provided with certain necessaries."

M. Jeff. Thompson to Brigadier-General Gideon Pillow, dateline "Camp Sikeston, Aug. 17, 1861."

"I have waited anxiously for the order, but as none has arrived, I have acted upon the circumstances which surround me, and have made the following disposition for this day: My First and Third Regiments are ordered to encamp at Jones' Ford (about 800 men); the Mississippi Cavalry, Neely's Tennesseeans, and two companies of dragoons are at Watkin's Farm (325); the Scott County Battalion are ordered to occupy the church or fort at Hamburg; Brown's battalion is ordered to Benton (250); Haywood's rangers and Price's dragoons (125) will vedette Bird's Point. Hunter and Jennings, with four full companies, will remain here (300); also Burns', Flunkies', and Partizin's (about 200). In all, 500. If your permission comes, I will move my headquarters to Benton. The Cape must be taken by surprise, to prevent the removal of the specie from the banks. If you will send me a few more companies of dragoons I will take it tomorrow, probably by capitulation, and by storm anyhow."

Eyewitness account of the desecration and vandalization of General Nathaniel Watkins' home in Jackson by Federal troops stationed at Cape Girardeau and under the command of Col. Charles T. Marsh.

"Aug. 30, 1861. We were aroused from sleep in the early morning by the firing of cannon and soon learned that Col. Marsh had left Cape Girardeau for this place (Jackson), expecting to surprise and capture a rebel force of five or six hundred men.

The town was made a camp and guards stationed around and some prisoners taken. Friday and Saturday night, churches were broken open and soldiers qu^a^rtered in them. On Sunday we found the floors greasy and dirty, the paint rubbed off the seats, and so much damage done, we were discouraged.

General Watkins' home was broken open by soldiers and most of the household goods appropriated to the individual comfort of the soldiers. The clothes of Mrs. Watkins, her cooking utensils, her tableware, chairs, bed clothes, towels, napkins, were taken and carried to the camp.

Many such articles I saw in the tents of the soldiers under Col. Marsh's orders. A fine carpet was torn into pieces and used under the saddles of both privates and officers. What could not be used were boxed up and hauled to the river, their future destination not known. The private letters and papers of General Watkins were taken. One soldier flourished a letter, saying he had been offered $100 for it. It was a l^e^tter from Henry Clay to his half brother. The soldier said he had a box full of interesting papers and expected to sell for a good price.

Col. Marsh, of this Illinois regiment, was a freebooter of the olden times. He decorated himself personally in the spoils of war, as did his soldiers, who paraded their camp in the dress they had captured from private homes.

Marsh's attire was a matter of comment for some time after his Jackson raid, especially some of the jewelry and clothing in which he appeared."

This desecration of his Jackson home led General Watkins to reside, ~~thereafter~~ at a later date, on his farm near the present site of Morley. (See footnote on following page.)

After the official forces of the Confederacy were driven from Scott County, the guerilla phase of the war began, and the hated "Dutch" of New Hamburg were so often the targets that Father Tuerck's housekeeper, familiarly known as "Mother Julia," put together "a contraption of ropes and pulleys, so that when the ~~xxxx~~ alarm was given she could ring the church bells from her kitchen.

One such raid, that of mid-August, 1863, is described in Sam Hildebrand's autobiography and quoted in the New Hamburg history.

"About the middle of August, 1863, at the solicitation of two brave boys who had kindly assisted me on several trips to St. Francois County, I started to a small place called Hamburg, with 15 men under my command.

We wished to take in 3 or 4 Dutchmen who had given the relatives of my two men a great deal of trouble, causing them to be robbed and in some instances imprisoned.

By traveling altogether in the night we created no disturbance until we got near our objective. About 10 o'clock in the forenoon we rode up and surrounded the house of one of the men whom we were after. He recognized us as Union soldiers and came out without being called.--When in the act of extending his hand to one of my men, he suddenly discovered his unfortunate mistake, and called to his wife, who was yet in the house.

The whole family came out and implored us in broken English to spare their father. To the bottom of my heart I cursed the man who

FOOTNOTE, NATHANIEL WATKINS:

Evidently Watkins' Jackson home was burned by Union soldiers ~~some~~ later ~~date~~ in the war, for we find the following item in the June 12, 1869 issue of the Commerce "Dispatch."

"General Nathaniel Watkins, over 70, but hale and hearty, looking like a man in his fifties, was in our office this week. He reported that much of his property had been destroyed during the war by the malignancy of his personal enemies; thus a fine dwelling house and library in Jackson had been robbed and burned. He told us, though, that he still owned 900 acres of fine land near Morley."

WATKINS' LETTER TO LINCOLN

Some time in the fall of 1862 General Watkins wrote President Lincoln, complaining of the treatment he had received at the hands of Col. Charles T. Marsh and his men. No copy of this appears to have survived. However, it was not ignored by Lincoln, as the following letter, dated Dec. 16, 1862, shows.

"Major-General Curtis, St. Louis, Mo.
N.W. Watkins of Jackson, Mo., (who is a half brother of Henry Clay) writes me that a colonel of ours has driven him from his home at Jackson. Will you please look into the case and restore the old man to his home if the public interest will permit. A. Lincoln."

At about this time Col. John McNeil, of Palmyra massacre fame, was given command of the 1,700 troops stationed at Cape Girardeau. McNeill, at Palmyra, had ordered the execution of ten innocent soldiers and had them hauled to their execution site seated in their own coffins.

To such a man, the General's attempt to have the local commander's orders reversed and condemned, would have been infuriating; and then there was that escape clause in Lincoln's letter--"if the public interest will permit." Under martial law, which had been in effect in Missouri since August 30, 1861, local commanders could seize the property of persons who took up arms against the government and "inflict sudden and severe punishment" on those suspected of "treasonable correspondence, or of giving or procuring aid to the enemies of the United States."

Thus, if McNeil wished to burn General Watkins' home, he had simply to order it done, and nothing whatever could be done about it.

End of Footnote

had first invented war; but as war on one side and mercy on the other would only lead to death, we marched our 'Dutchman' first about a mile and hung him on a leaning tree. About 1 hour afterwards we came to the house of the other man; he broke out at the back door and ran so fast that we all had to fire before we brought him down.

We now pushed on to get a couple more who lived in Hamburg, but on entering the place we were met with a volley of musket shots. One of my men was killed, and we then charged the enemy, seeing they that their numbers were only about 12."

Others, hearing the shooting, were drawn into the conflict, which rapidly became too hot for Hildebrand's taste. He and his men fled post-haste, not stopping until they reached Little River and swam across to safety on Coon Island.

Hildebrand lost one killed and 4 wounded, the latter being taken prisoners, when the other guerillas were forced to leave them behind. Hildebrand concludes his narrative by ruefully admitting that "we lost nearly everything we had except our horses, and they were badly injured; some of my men lost their guns and others lost every bit of fight that they formerly had in them."

According to the report of Col. J.B. Rodgers, datelined Cape Girardeau, May 20, 1864, "about the tenth (May 10) information from our scouts that Nathan Bowlin, a notorious guerilla, crossed the St. Francis River with his band, supposed to be about 60 strong. Sent men out to hunt him. No luck. Soon after their return Bowlin emerged from his hiding place and followed the command at not more than 3 hours distance. Burned Catholic Church and buildings at Hamburg and fled.."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BOLIN RAID

The following account of the Bolin raid on New Hamburg was published in the May-June, 1979 issue of the Ozark Mountaineer, and was sent to me by Mr. Wilson C. Moore, of Cabool, Mo.

According to the Ozark Mountaineer article: "The Bolin Boys struck the St. Francis River region in the vicinity of Hornersville. When the Federals learned of the band's presence in the area, several detachments of militiamen were sent in pursuit, but failed to make contact with the raiders. As the Federals returned to their respective posts, one column of cavalry was followed closely by Bolin's guerillas as far as the village of Hamburg.

As soon as the Federals were out of hearing distance, the Bolin band attacked the village, burning the Catholic Church, setting fire to several other buildings, pillaging the residences and then disappearing into the swamps. The Federals had no more than reached their camp when news of the Hamburg catastrophe arrived. Fifty Union cavalrymen were sent scurrying back to Hamburg in a fruitless effort to catch the elusive Rebels."

Col. J.B. Rogers was much embarassed by the success of this raid into territory under his command, and vowed in his report to General Thomas Ewing that he would kill all of the raiders..

Raids such as this were of rather frequent occurrence throughout the year 1864, and caused the abandonment of mail service to all of the towns in the county except Commerce. It was in this year, too, that the Confederates were especially active in the burning of houses and public buildings, probably in retaliation for Sherman's scorched earth policy then being pursued in the Southern States. Prior to 1864 most of the house burning and destruction of public property had been done by Federal Army units.

ADDITIONAL 1864 GUERILLA RAIDS IN SE. MISSOURI

From St. Louis Newspapers:

Bolin's command active Feb. 6 to 8, 1864, across Southeast Missouri from Holcomb's Island to Round Pond, with skirmishes fought at both places.

News report datelined Cape Girardeau, March 5, 1864, indicated that guerillas were "becoming quite bold throughout Southeast Missouri, and especially so in the area around Charleston."

March 7, 1864: A guerilla band under the command of Vernon Campbell murdered Mississippi County Court judge H.W. Molder. The band was estimated to number about ten or twelve.

March 12, 1864: Guerillas attack the steamer C.E. Hillman. The Hillman was a 750-ton steamer, at that time operating under the ownership of John A. Scudder. On Jan. 31, 1865 it was hired for government service, and its owner paid $375 a day for the use of his ship and crew in government service.

March 22, 1864: Four guerillas stripped and robbed Judge Molder's widow of a $100 bill, which they found hidden in one of her stockings. They also took the mule that she was riding.

March 29, 1864: Guerillas active around Charleston and in Scott County.

April 22, 1864: Ewing on a scout from Charleston killed four guerillas--James Briar, Hardeman Kirkpatrick, Presley Moore and Philip Davis. Davis was the head of the group, which had been harassing the residents of Scott and Mississippi counties for the past year.

April 23, 1864: Calvert, likewise on a scouting mission, attacked a band of twenty guerillas and killed eight of them.

June 8, 1864, from report by Col. J.B.Rogers, Cape Girardeau.

"Lieutenant Rice, who was in command of the affair last evening at Sikeston, has arrived; he reports that he killed three guerillas instead of one, as before reported. The man Wright was taken prisoner; he was a desperate outlaw; he had just shot a horse because it was branded U.S., and had killed a negro but a moment before his capture; the negro was lying there dead. He said he was in command of the party who bushwhacked the soldiers from New Madrid Saturday last. Killing and wounding eleven; he said he would do so as long as he could raise an arm. He said he tore down the telegraph line--if Rice did not believe it, look in his saddle-bags; a roll of telegraph wire was in them. Wright departed this life last night; his death was sudden; he tried to escape but didn't. Our men are after them. I regret to say that one prisoner was brought in."

H.M. Hiller, reporting from Cape Girardeau Sept. 22, 1864.

"The rebels attacked Captain Sell two or three times this morning. The last attack was made near Sikeston. Sells formed his men in line, and opened on them with howitzers. When the rebels attacked, Sells was forced to burn his supply train between the Castor and Whitewater. He was at Benton with his forces this evening, and will be in during the night. His loss is three killed, seven wounded and some ten missing. He reports killing twenty. The rebels had one 2-pounder gun. Captain Sells informs me that while he was fighting with musketry he heard cannon firing at Bloomfield, and from the sound and distance judges the guns to be twelve pounders."

Lieut.-Col. H.M. Hiller, reporting from Cape Girardeau Nov. 6, 1864.

"I have received no official dispatch concerning the affair at Charleston. The telegraph operator informs me that while Captain Diehl was at breakfast

yesterday morning some twenty guerillas made a dash into town and wounded Captain Diehl seriously, one man slightly, and captured eight men. Then they left without doing further damage. The eight prisoners were taken out of town some seven miles, robbed of everything of any value, and then sent back. They report the guerillas to be some sixty strong."

Charleston, Nov. 6, 1864: Report of Lieutenant E.G. Rathbun to Col. H.M. Hiller at Cape Girardeau.

"Captain Edwards overtook the rebels four miles from Sikeston and killed fifteen and took five prisoners. I came up with a small squad of rebels and killed five. The rebels are scattered in small bands of five or six, and apparently trying to get out of the State. The Enrolled Militia acted splendidly."

(Mississippi County's county court appropriated $12,000 in 1864 to pay members of the local Enrolled Militia unit. There are entries in the county court records of Scott County indicating that a number of men from Scott County were also paid for serving in a similar unit.)

Col. J.B.Rogers reporting from Cape Girardeau Dec. 15, 1864.

"Captain Tanner, commanding at Commerce, killed three guerillas and took their arms in Cypress Swamp yesterday. One escaped. No prisoners."

Reports such as this indicate that a garrison force was stationed at Commerce, at least most of the time, from mid-1863 to the close of the war. Hence the comparative safety of the town, at a time when all of the other towns in Scott County were suffering from frequent and destructive guerilla raids.

THE BURNING OF BLOOMFIELD SEPT. 21, 1864

According to information in the "Encyclopedia of Missouri History," "On Sept. 21, 1864, the town, including courthouse and jail, was almost wholly destroyed by fire, started by guerillas in the wake of Price's army."

Henry M. Phillips, a retired attorney and a scion of an old and respected Stoddard County family that had resided in Bloomfield during the Civil War, in a speech made in Bloomfield in October of 1955 before the members of the Kiwanis Club of that city, told a wholly different story of this matter. (See the Oct. 26, 1977 issue of the Bloomfield Vindicator for a reprint of Mr. Phillip's address on that occasion.)

His remarks follow:

"I ran across a letter some time ago from my grandfather, Major Montgomery, to my grandmother. He was for a time commander of the Union forces here. In the letter he refers to a letter from her about a fire here caused by the State Militia (a semi-official Union army force). He seems to agree that they were responsible for it, but cautioned her not to talk about it because they might cause her trouble."

Later, when the Federal Goverment was paying claims for damage caused by Union forces, a total of $2,400 was paid to representatives of Stoddard County for the rental and destruction of the county's court house, after eyewitness evidence had been submitted on how this came about.

In view of the foregoing, it might be well for my readers to bear in mind that the accounts of guerilla activities in this region have been taken, either from northern newspapers or official Union Army reports, and therefore may be about as reliable as the report on the burning of Bloomfield.

OGLESBY'S NOVEMBER, 1861 RAID INTO SE. MISSOURI

Shortly after General Grant arrived at Cairo, he ordered Col. R.J. Oglesby, later governor of Illinois, to proceed with his force of Illinois troops, then harassing the farmers around Bird's Point, to Bloomfield and on to the St. Francois River, where a body of rebel troops were reportedly encamped.

Oglesby landed at Commerce Nov. 1, 1861 with about 3,000 men. In "Nigger Wool" swamp his men exchanged a few shots with a small detachment of Thompson's troops. Bloomfield was then occupied, but nothing else of significance accomplished.

Grant, learning that the Confederate forces at Belmont were being reinforced, directed Oglesby to direct his march in that direction. A detachment under Col. W.H.L. Wallace was sent, via Commerce, to reinforce Oglesby, making the total force in the field something over 4,000.

Grant, in the meantime started downriver to Belmont and ordered Oglesby to bring his troops back to Bird's Point, thus terminating the expedition without anything of importance having been accomplished.

On Nov. 18, 1861 a Confederate detachment under Col. Jeffers fired on the steamboat "Platte Valley," while it was at Price's Landing, and then moved upriver and raided Commerce.

This was reported in a letter written by Brigadier-General G.W. Dodge to Major John Rawlins of Grant's staff. This brief report stated that: "Jeffers with about 500 men took Commerce today. Troops from above went to retake. As the 'Platte Valley' passed Commerce, the Union flag was flying half-mast, upside down."

One of the most interesting incidents of the Civil War in this area occurred during Thompson's Dec. 29, 1861 raid on Commerce. Thompson's own version of this is contained in his Dec. 30, 1861 report, which was written at New Madrid, Mo.

"We dashed into this place (Commerce) about 10 a.m. The town was completely surprised, and I soon had all of the male inhabitants assembled and guarded. I then had the stores of two Federals opened, and allowed my men to select such wearing apparel as they were in need of. About 2:30 o'clock the steamer 'City of Alton' came in sight. I made arrangements to surprise her, not having cannon, but was defeated in my plan by the women of Commerce, whom I could not prevent giving the alarm. She approached the shore, however, near enough to get a good peppering, and she backed down the river several miles, and had not attempted to pass up when I left, which was nearly sundown. I got muskets, two rifles, six horses, 15 or 20 suits of clothes, and returned (after stampeding the Union men of Scott County) safely to this post, having marched 106 miles in 40 hours."

The sequel to this appeared in the columns of the Feb. 10, 1862 issue of the"Missouri Democrat," under the headline "PRESENTATION TO MRS. EVERSOL"

"On the evening of the fifth February, at Cape Girardeau, Captain Ben. Sousley, in behalf of the Alton Packet Co., presented to the heroic and loyal Mrs. Eversol the sum of $200, in acknowledgement of her courage, humanity and patriotism, in recently saving the passengers of the steamboat City of Alton from being captured by Jeff Thompson's marauding band. It will be remembered that, as the boat was approaching the shore where the enemy waited to seize her, Mrs. Eversol ran to

the levee, and by her exclamations and gesticulations warned those on board of the danger, and enabled them to escape. The handsome testimonial to her merit was richly deserved, but a richer one is assured to her in the memories of her countrymen and countrywomen."

Captain Sousley subsequently received from Mrs. Eversol the following modest and appropriate note:

"Dear Sir: Permit me, through you, to tender to the members of your company my thanks for the unmerited token of respect which they were pleased to convey to me through the hands of Captain Sousley, and received by me today. In reply to their earnest solicitations to visit St. Louis and Alton, allow me to say that I would be most happy to do so when the weather and travelling are pleasant; although I would again assure them that in any part I might have taken on the twenty-ninth day of December, in the preservation of the lives of my fellow-beings and their property, I only obeyed the impulse of a loyal heart. Sarah L. Eversol."

Mrs. Eversol was then residing in the Wathen hotel building, on Lot 12, northwest corner of Spring and Water streets, which was a block south of the landing at the eastern terminus of Washington Street, where Thompson's men were hiding behind a large woodpile, the wood from which was used to wood-up passing steamboats.

Thompson obviously could have shot Mrs. Eversol, but refrained from doing so or even threatening or molesting her in any way.

Contrast this with the following communications between Col. W.P. Kellogg at Cape Girardeau and Brigadier-General E.A. Paine at Cairo.

Kellogg to Paine, Feb. 9, 1862: "Yesterday (Feb. 8th) several companies of our cavalry, with one company of Ross' infantry, scoured the country west, bringing in fifty prisoners. Our cavalry also encountered a large

force of rebel cavalry, 15 miles below Bloomfield. They succeeded in routing them, killing seven, wounding many, and taking 20 prisoners. We had two missing and one wounded. They found five bodies, known to be Union men, murdered."

Message, Paine to Kellogg, concerning the above "murders":

"Hang one of the rebel cavalry for each Union man murdered; and after this, two for each. Continue to scout, capture and kill."

The above was taken from the columns of the "Cleveland Plaindealer," the editor of which considered Paine's reply an admirable one. Paine, incidentally, was an Ohio lawyer and a close friend of Abraham Lincoln. Later General Halleck countermanded Paine's bloodthirsty order, not because of its revolting brutality, but because he objected to its having been released to the newspapers and given wide publicity.

Why all of this hatred for Southeast Missourians ? One of the reasons was that, during the first year or so of the war, most of the Union officers and soldiers sent into this region were abolitionist fanatics from northern states.

Another reason could have been the fact that in the election of 1860 Lincoln received only eleven votes in the Southeastern Missouri counties of Scott, Stoddard, Mississippi, New Madrid, Wayne, Butler and Dunklin.

Scott County's voters gave Lincoln six votes, as compared to 215 for Douglas, 243 for Bell and 192 for Breckinridge. In Stoddard, Dunklin and New Madrid counties not a single person voted for Lincoln.

Cape Girardeau County's voters, on the other hand, cast 175 votes for Lincoln.

GENERAL POPE'S 1862 ACTIVITIES IN SCOTT COUNTY

Brigadier-General John Pope's February and March, 1862, operations out of Commerce were the largest to affect Scott County during the Civil War.

In his report he says: "I landed at Commerce on the night of the 21st of February, with a small escort. Regiments were sent to me rapidly from St. Louis, Cincinnati and Cairo, most of them entirely raw, having had arms first placed in their hands when they embarked on the steamer to join me.

I was forced to make a complete organization of them at Commerce."(This was done by his subordinate officers, Generals Schuyler, Hamilton, Stanley, Palmer, Granger and Plummer.)

When Pope landed at Commerce the night of Feb. 21st, he had only 140 men, but by the time he left a week later, his force consisted of 26,153 officers and men; a number that was considerably augmented

by troops that were landed at Commerce after he had begun his movement toward New Madrid.

Some troops and fifty wagons had been sent on to Benton before the march began. Pope says that a drizzle of snow and rain was falling as he started moving his troops out of Commerce.

According to the account in the Cincinnati "Gazette" Pope's army left Commerce on Feb. 28th, and on the second day after leaving Commerce reached Hunter's farm.

"On the following morning two companies of the 7th Illinois cavalry suddenly came upon Jeff Thompson, who was attempting to make a stand against Capt. Noleman's independent company of cavalry. The rebel force consisted of about 200 mounted men, with 3 pieces of artillery. These were advantageously posted at the extremity of a long causeway, where the road led through a dense swamp. After several ineffectual attempts on the part of our men to outflank the rebels, Capt. Webster determined to charge upon them. As he neared them, the heart of Jeff. failed him, and wildly delivering one scattering volley, he and his men turned tail and fled. Our cavalry closely pursued them. The rebels dashed on at the utmost speed of their horses through the mud, occasionally turning to discharge their shot-guns at their pursuers, who replied with carbines and revolvers. The ~~road~~ road was strewn with guns, blankets, hats, and coats, lost or thrown away by the rebels in their frantic flight. Among them was the famous hat of Jeff. Thompson himself, with its white plume, almost as well known in this region as was that of Henry of Navarre to his followers. His three pieces of artillery also were all run down and captured. Thus for nearly twenty miles the flight and pursuit swept on until they approached New Madrid, and the remnant of the flying foe sought the shelter of its friendly guns."

BRIGADIER-GENERAL MERRIWETHER JEFF THOMPSON

Northern newspaper men have portrayed General Thompson as a drunken buffoon, but that, as you will see, was hardly a fair description of the man.

Merriwether Jeff Thompson was born at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, on Jan. 22, 1826, and died at St. Joseph, Missouri, in July of 1876.

Prior to the Civil War he was a civil engineer and surveyed much of the route of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, also railroads in Nebraska. He was serving as mayor of St. Joseph when the war started.

He was a man of considerable ingenuity and inventiveness, as is evident from his military activities in this area, and from his having developed an improved braking system for trains and an improved type of pistol lock.

Less well known to the public, however, is the fact that he also wrote songs. I first became aware of this back in 1978, when I bought a truck load of books and found among them a great many pieces of old sheet music, one of which was a Civil War song that had been written by General Thompson. According to the information on the cover, the song was "The New Red, White & Blue, written by Gen'l. Jeff Thompson. Composed by Theod. Von la Hache, New Orleans. Published by A.E. Blackmar & Bro., 74 Camp Street, Vicksburg, and printed by Moody & Kuner. Entered According to Act of Congress A.D. 1862, by A.E. Blackmar & Bro., in the clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the District of Louisiana."

What happened to this treasure ? Well, I needed money at the time,and sold it to Kurt Stein,of Springfield, Pennsylvania, and have been mentally kicking myself ever since for having done so.

The Cincinnati "Commercial" account was considerably more factual and less boastful.

"We encamped the first night some 12 miles from Commerce. The second had the interesting feature of a skirmish of our cavalry and some rebel cavalry, near Sykestown, in which we took four prisoners and 3 small rifled cannon, one of our men being slightly wounded. We encamped at night at Sykestown. About 2 o'clock on Sunday morning we had a terrific storm of thunder, lighning, and rain, and gained a rough experience of camp life. The camp was flooded, but the men continued in good spirits. The roads were bad and the day cold. At night we camped in order of battle not more than nine miles from New Madrid. The night was cold, ice forming near an inch thick."

Because of high water on the Mississippi, Commerce remained the army's supply and medical depot throughout the New Madrid campaign. We learn this from Pope's "Special Order No. 52," which was datelined New Madrid, March 10, 1862.

"The depot at Commerce will be immdeiately broken up by the officers in charge and all of the stores transferred to Bird's Point; officers in charge to proceed there too.

The brigade surgeon at Commerce will take immediate steps to have the sick in his charge removed, if possible, to St. Louis; if not, to Cairo or Bird's Point; then the four companies of the 22nd Missouri Volunteers will repair to Bird's Point."

The latter, of course, had been doing guard duty at Commerce, protecting the army's medical and supply base.

A number of Pope's soldiers must have died at Commerce, even though field surgeons took care of the sick and wounded at New Mardrid.

There are still some out-of-state soldiers' gravestones in the old Commerce cemetery, and since they were buried on the northern edge of the cemetery, where a huge gully has cut back into it, some may have been lost in this manner. Graves certainly have been washed out there, and it is not unlikely that some of these involved the graves of Pope's men.

Too, from two items in 1867 editions of the Commerce "Dispatch," we learn that, in that year, a Cairo contractor bid in the job of removing the bodies of soldiers buried in the old Commerce cemetery. Evidently the job was done somewhat haphazarly, as the Dispatch's editor said that "of the ten I personally saw exhumed, only three were actually soldiers."

Another item tells of this contractor exhuming the body of a Commerce rural area woman, whose sons were pretty well wrought up about the matter and vowed they'd do some pretty nasty things to the contractor if they could manage to lay [illegible] hands on him.

There were only two enclaves or islands of Union sympathizers in Scott County during the Civil War. One of these, of course, was the German settlement around New Hamburg, and the other was at Commerce, and north along the river to Gray's Point, where, during the 1840s and 1850s, a German settlement had developed around the then dying village of New York. This settlement, appropriately enough, became known as the "New York Settlement," and continued to be so known after New York itself had long been forgotten.

These settlements, as the war progressed, obtained for themselves a measure of protection by organizing units of the Missouri Home Guards. Older men and men with families made up the bulk of the Scott County guard units. Andrew Buhs, who lived on a farm just west of New York, joined Company D of the Scott Co. Mo. Home Guards although he was 53 years old and the father of a rather large family; and I daresay that his situation was not unusual among the members of these units.

Places like Benton, largely Southern in sympathy, were almost totally without protection from marauding bands of both persuasions throughout the war. Hence, it is not surprising that the courthouse there was often entered and its records destroyed or damaged.

The courthouse, incidentally, was a new one--of frame construction--that had only been completed in 1858. It replaced a poorly built brick structure that had been erected in 1844 to replace the county's original log courthouse.

The records of the county court are curiously devoid of any outright mention of the war, probably because the judges feared to express themselves for fear some of the partisan forces who occupied the courthouse might take offense at their comments and take vengeance on them.

At any rate, the first entry in these records that indicates any problem with the courthouse records is that of June 23, 1862, which reads as follows:

"Ordered by the court that the clerk of this court procure all books and papers and preserve all legible papers scattered in the court house and assort them." This entry is on page 1 of Book Record No. 2. Another entry on page 17 refers to "destroyed papers."

Again, the May 16, 1863 entry, includes an order for the clerk of the court "to proceed to ascertain, as far as is practicable, in what estates the records have been destroyed or mutilated; and in what estates the bonds of administrators or executors, guardians and curators are not found of record, and cannot be found."

In reality the destruction of the county's probate court records was almost complete. Present indexes do not go back beyond the Civil War, and the boxes of estate documents date only from 1871.

Records of land transfers were less affected, though there were some losses. However, Book No. 12 of the Warranty Deeds, which is entirely missing, did not, as we learn from the files of the Commerce "Dispatch," disappear as a result of the war. It was stolen while being used as evidence in a case being tried at Commerce after the war.

Two other early warranty deed books have been damaged; one, in fact, by fire, so badly as to be almost worthless.

This situation caused the Legislature of the State of Missouri, to enact, on January 26, 1864, legislation authorizing the removal of the countyseat from Benton to Commerce.

According to an account in the "Encyclopedia of Missouri Courthouses," the courts had been unable to hold any sessions at Benton for some months before this legislation was enacted, and the county records had meantime been moved to the military post at Cape Girardeau for safe keeping.

The truth of the matter seems to be that the county's government was moved to Commerce some five months before the Missouri Legislature gave official sanction to a de facto situation. Evidence of this is provided by the fact that, beginning Aug. 21, 1863, William Ballentine, Clerk of the County Court, began signing all court documents with this notation: "at office in town of Commerce." Prior to that date, most documents contained a notation indicating that they had been drawn up at Benton.

There are many entries of the following nature in the war-time records of the county court:

"Peter Gosche vs. State of Missouri; Petition for Relief from Commutation Tax.

Petitioner comes and files his petition, and the proofs and allegations being heard, the Court doth consider adjudge, that said Peter Gosche be discharged from said Commutation Tax assessed against him for the year 1863, and that the same be certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts."

October Term, 1864: "Ordered by the court that Jacob Reagart, a Soldier in the United States Volunteer Services be relieved from payment of the Poll Tax for the year 1862, in the sum of one dollar, State Tax, and one dollar, County Tax; also for the year 1863, one dollar State Tax and one dollar County Tax, and two dollars Military Tax, amounting in all to the sum of Six dollars."

The commutation tax was $30 on persons exempted from military service, and in addition, those so exempted had to pay a tax of one per cent on the assessed value of their property.

The military poll tax was $2, county and state. The property military tax was 20¢ per $100 valuation in 1863 and 1864, but was raised in 1865 to 50¢ per $100. This tax was eliminated in 1867

There are other 1864 entries indicating that on a few occasions, sums of $10 or $15 were disbursed by the court to especially needy wives of Union soldiers.

Commerce, even before the Civil War and the acquisition of the countyseat business, was by far the largest town in the county, and the only incorporated one, having achieved that status in 1834.

The editors of the 1874 edition of"Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri" estimated that Commerce's population "had trebled in the past six years," and was thought to total "about 600." Wilson's "Gazetteer and Directory of Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois," (1875) put the figure at a much more modest 450.

Even though there is some disagreement as to the population of Commerce at that time, we do know, for the first time, thanks to the Commerce "Dispatch," exactly what businesses were active there in the late 1860s and early 1870s.

From the business directory, ads and news items we have extracted the following list of businesses and professional men then doing business in Commerce.

From the pages of the April 6, 1867 edition of the "Dispatch"

"Eversol & Moye, Northwest corner Washington & Water Sts. Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, & c. Cash paid for produce."

1

"City Drug Store, John B. Stuppy, proprietor. Druggist & Pharmacist, (also notary public). In Sillman's brick, Water St., opposite Anderson's. Dealers in drugs, dye stuffs, Hemicas (I hate to confess this, but that term defies all of my dictionaries and encyclopedias, scientific and otherwise. Maybe you can have better luck with it. E.S.), brushes, perfumes, medicines, paints, oils, glass & putty, coal oil, pure wines & liquors for medicinal use."

"TIN WARE ESTABLISHMENT, Ambrose Oberly, on Washington St., keeps on hand a large assortment of stoves of the latest and most approved patterns. Stove pipe, hollow-ware, smoothing irons. Spouting put up in a durable manner. All kinds of repairing done at shortest notice."

"GREGOR OBERLE Has entirely reconstructed his building on the corner. Boots and Shoes, Queensware, Groceries, Choice Liquors. If you want potatoes and meat, go to Oberly's. Oberly's is the place for almost anything you want."

"De Wint & Moore (F. De Wint, M.D. & Joe H. Moore), druggists. Frame building next door northeof the post-office. Drugs, dye stuff, window glass, putty, oils, paints, perfumeries, soaps, brushes, tobacco, books, stationery, pure liquors, patent medicines, candies, spices, groceries, and hardware."

"BENJAMIN McKINLEY, on Water St. north of Anderson's brick. Dry goods, Hats, Caps, Boots & Shoes. Notions, groceries, hardware, cutlery, Queensware, & c. Produce bought at the highest prices."

"YOUNGMAN & LYNCH'S CHEAP CASH STORE, corner of Main & Commercial Sts. Dry goods, groceries, Queensware, cutlery, hats, caps, boots & shoes. Ready-made clothing, & c. The firm still retains the services of that popular and universally known salesman Pete Moreau."

"JACKSON & GANS, Brick Makers."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY: April 6, 1867

William Ballentine, Attorney at Law, Office, Washington St., in printing office building.

H.P. Lynch, Physician & Surgeon, Office new brick Youngman & Lynch store building.

Jones & Miller, General Repairers, and will repair anything from a steam engine to a duplex lever watch. Especial attention given to the manufacture of coffins. Shop located on Water Street.

Charles D. Cook, Attorney at Law, Commerce, Mo.

Charles H. Kew, Notary Public and County Surveyor, Office in the Courthouse, Commerce, Mo.

Joseph H. Moore, Attorney & Counsellor, Office first door north of Drug Store of De Wint & Moore.

R. Bay Wade, M.D., will attend promptly to all calls in the different branches of his profession.

Dr. J.D. Porterfield, Physician & Surgeon.

J.D. Foster, Attorney at Law, Office at the Courthouse.

KAFFENBERGER & WEBER'S SHOE REPAIR SHOP & SHOE STORE. Shop on Washington Street near postoffice.

CASPER BEHNEN'S TAILORING, MENDING & CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT, Washington Street.

FARMER'S HOME SALOON, Vincent Heisserer, Prop., Water Street. Commodious stable is to be found in the rear of the saloon, where farmers and others are at liberty to feed their stock WITHOUT CHARGE. Horses kept and well taken care of on the most reasonable terms. The best of hay & corn furnished.

GRAND CHAIN STEAM FLOURING MILLS, George H. Watson, Prop. Engaged in a large merchant & shipping business.
HIGHEST MARKET Price Paid for all kinds of grain, and flour of any desirable brand furnished at reasonable rates.

MARCH 28, 1868 "DISPATCH" Ads:

GAITHER & BEATTIE CHEAP CASH STORE, General Merchandise.

J.T. & W.B. ANDERSON, Boots & Shoes, Cotton Yarns, Castings, Salt, Furniture. Highest Prices paid for all kinds of Peltries, & c. Number 4 Water Street.

THE CITY BAKERY, Anton Ruf, Prop. Candies, Oysters, Sardines, Nuts, Figs, Canned Fruits, Confectionaries, Family Groceries, Ice-Cold Lemonade, Fountain Sodawater. Old Spruce Beer, Cider, Fresh Bread & Confectionaries Always on Hand.

March 28, 1868 ads Continued:

Joseph H. Moore & Edwin S. Waterbury, Attorneys at Law.

F. Baumgartner, Saddle & Harness maker, has on hand a large supply of saddles, harness, bridles, spurs and whips.

Foster & Smith, Attorneys at Law.

THE WEBSTER HOUSE, Daniel Webster, Prop. Hotel with Stables. His Table is supplied with everything the market affords, and his beds are clean and comfortable. Situated near the Court House, on the Court House Square.

HARDWARE & CUTLERY, THE ZEPHYR STORE. H.P. Lynch, Prop.

NEW ADS, APRIL 2, 1869 edition of the "Dispatch."

J.T. & W.B. ANDERSON, Forwarding & Commission Merchants. Steamboat Agents. Highest Prices Paid for all kinds of Produce, Furs, Peltries, & c. No. 4 Water Street.

SIMEON R. JONES, Successor to J.T. & W.B. Anderson. Dry Goods, Notions, Fancy Goods, Clothing, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Groceries, Provisions, Salt and Furniture. Also Lime, Cement, Lumber, Laths, Shingles, Sash, Glass, Edge Tools, & c., & c.

NEW FIRM & NEW GOODS. MOYE & HEUCHAN, Northwest Corner of Washington & Water Streets. Dealers in Dry Goods, Fancy & Staple Groceries, Boots & Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, & c.

A. ROTH Has Just Opened a Large Stock of Dry Goods, Hats and Caps, Boots & Shoes, Clothing, & c., In the Storerooms formerly occupied by H.P. Lynch.

H.G. Frehe Barber Shop.

GRAND CHAIN SALOON, John R. Dooms, Prop., on Washington Street in office formerly occupied by the "Dispatch."

NEW PAINT SHOP, George C. Gladwin, Prop. Rear of Mr. Moore's building. All kinds of painting, paper-hanging and Calcimining.

NEW WAGON & BLACKSMITH SHOP, Jones & High, Proprietors. In the old cotton gin building. Make or repair wagons, buggies, plows, harrows and all kinds of vehicles and implements.

Ad in the August 14, 1869 edition of the "Dispatch."

Ho! FOR THE NEW STORE At the Lime Kiln, Grey's Point, Missouri. B.N. GREY, Would notify the public that he has opened a Dry Goods and Grocery Store at Grey's Lime Kiln, where will be found at all times a well selected stock--one every way suited to the demands of the country. The goods will be disposed of cheap for cash, or in exchange for country produce. Flour & Corn Meal Always on Hand, and for sale CHEAP, of the Best Grand Chain Brand.
(The latter statement suggests that by 1869 the Grand Chain Mill was again producing flour.)

A news item in the "Dispatch" also indicates that Edmund Grey, Sr., had justcompleted a new steamboat, "The Last Resort," and was using it to haul his lime, and for passenger & freight service between Cape & Commer

(The B.N. Grey store, however, was not the first in that area, for in Sept. of 1865, the County granted James Anderson a dram shop license for "his stand near Grays Point." It was located a mile west of Grey's store, on land in the E½ of Sec. 28, Twp. 30N, R14E, then owned by Joseph T. Anderson.)

Another "Dispatch" ad from the April 6, 1867 edition concerns:

"DONNENMILLERVILLE. This important little point is on the New Madrid and Cape Girardeau Road, about midway between Cape Girardeau and Benton, and Cape Girardeau and Hamburg. His DRY GOODS STORE is well filled with everything the country around him may require. He has just returned from St. Louis with a large stock, and is determined to sell as cheap, if not cheaper, than any other store in the county.

His grocery store and saloon is a popular resort for everybody in the county, and is abundantly supplied with everything the public may require.

He is prepared to accomodate the TRAVELING PUBLIC. His stables are good, and well supplied with good, fresh feed. Travelers will find this a cheap and comfortable place to stop at. LOUIS DONNENMILLER, Prop."

Locally written articles, unfortunately for our purposes, are scarce in the "Dispatch," for like most weekly newspapers of that period, its columns consisted mainly of readyprint dealing with national news and advertising. Fortunately, however, we have found [redacted] and extracted a few items that, we hope, will be of interest to the readers of this history.

Sept. 15, 1867: "Albion Crow died in New Orleans Sept. 15, 1867 of Yellow Fever. He was a Secessionist, and had moved from Scott County to Tennessee at the onset of the Civil War. At the close of the war he moved to New Orleans, where he established a large and profitable commission house, which he was planning to enlarge at the time of his death."

Oct. 19, 1867: "James Doomis caught a 118-pound catfish. Two other catfish weighing, respectively, 78 and 80 pounds, had been caught near Commerce a few days before Mr. Doomis landed his monster."

JACKSON HILL SCHOOL (one of the oldest in the county) had been opened in the fall for a four months' teaching term.

ASSESSOR'S NOTICE: The Assessor will be at Brockville, Moreland Township, Sept. 26, 1868.

Aug. 1, 1868: "A committee consisting of Messrs. Waterbury, Moore and Youngman has been appointed to revise and amend the articles of incorporation for an academy to be at Commerce."
Aug. 15, 1868: "A Board of Trustees for the Grand Chain Academy met Monday, Aug. 10, 1868, and selected a design for a 70 by 56-foot, 2-story and basement building to house the proposed new academy.

Also, on Monday and Wednesday a number of citizens built a very respectable road to the proposed academy site on Cemetery Hill."

Later in August the basement was dug and some building materials hauled to the site, and construction was to begin the following week. Stock in the academy was sold to the public, but the certificates were never issued nor any money collected for them. Instead, at this inopportune time, Joseph H. Moore and others decided that the Cemetery Hill site was not a good one, and proposed, instead, to locate the academy on a site a short distance east of the Moore residence. A typical small town fracas developed over this and no further action was taken toward construction of the Grand Chain Academy. Only the the basement hole remains as a sort of monument to a dream that went sour.

Sept. 18, 1869: "Miss Beecham has re-opened her school in the church building. Mr. Welton has closed his school in this place and is now teaching a district school at the Jackson Hill schoolhouse."
Sept. 28, 1869: "A Negro school teacher opened a school here, was paid in advance, and after getting all he could from our honest, hard-working darkies, left for some other field of operations."

Nov. 9, 1867: "Towboat Bon Accord, that struck a rock on the Missouri side, opposite Walbridge's Landing, and sunk in ten feet of water, was to be salvaged." The first salvage efforts failed, but later ones succeeded. A 4-foot hole was found in her hull.

March 13, 1869: "Mr. High has purchased the wreck of the Cape ferry, the John Overs, which sunk back in the fall of 1861, and is now busily engaged in exploring the sandbar across the river from Commerce, for it." A later item in the "Dispatch" indicates that Mr. High did succeed in "probing out" the ferry wreck and was planning to salvage its boilers and machinery.

Sat., Feb. 20, 1869: "A TRIP FROM COMMERCE TO LITTLE RIVER."

"We left Commerce on Monday morning in company with a friend for a trip to Little River. The morning was damp and chilly and none too pleasant for so lengthy a jaunt, but to fill an engagement made in pleasant weather, we were compelled to ignore its unpleasantness.

Between here and Benton we observed nothing of particular note. No improvements worth mentioning, and nothing to convince us that farmers on the route were particularly enterprising. From Benton to Morley, the small changes that industrious human beings are able to make on the natural formations around them, were more apparent. Fences were torn down and built again on new sites, and fields that had been 'laying out' are being reclaimed and made ready for the plowshare.

Morley is not quite hidden under a bushel, for through the tree-tops and at the distance of a mile the bright new shingles of at least twenty buildings were shimmering in the sunlight.

Along the Bloomfield road to Stringer's Ferry (across Little River), we found many new farms that three or four years ago were covered by huge oaks, poplars and gums; and many by-roads leading from the main

one, that were not in existence when we last traveled the road. On our way we met a large drove of cattle bound for Cairo, that had been pasturing during the winter months in the cane breaks.

At Bowman's Corner we observed a marked change since the track of the Iron Mountain has been laid. New buildings and new farms were met in rapid succession, and we could not help admiring the contrast between this portion of the country and seven years ago."

Excerpts from a lengthy April 2, 1869 article entitled "Along the Southern Division of the Iron Mountain Railroad," reprinted in the Dispatch from the columns of the St. Louis Republican.

"The year 1869 is dating an era in the destiny of Southeast Missouri. The Iron Mountain railroad is open from Lucas Bend on the Mississippi River, near Belmont, through Charleston, on through the new town of Morley in the center of Scott County; and the locomotive with its train of cars, is now penetrating the southern borders of Cape Girardeau County. Work is progressing with energy, so as to open the road through the Bollinger County tunnel by the first of July.

Passing from Commerce, the county seat of Scott County, the traveller goes along the southern edge of a range of highlands, known as the Benton Bluffs, and through a forest of tulip trees, commonly called polar, many of which are more than five feet in diameter and over fifty feet to a limb, near the picturesque residence of General Watkins; and here the smoke of the locomotive is seen and the roar of the cars heard, announcing the fact that the railroad depot and rising town of Morley is about one mile distant towards the South.

The town of Morley was laid out in September, 1868, and within six months 20 houses are built and 78 people are counted in one view, busily engaged.--Farmers are unloading corn from their wagons, and reloading

them with goods to take to their homes; mechanics are hewing large and long oaks, cypress and other timbers, for the depot and other buildings; laborers are digging foundations for houses, working on the side track, perfecting the road and loading the cars with corn; merchants are pushing their sales; the hotel-keeper spreads repeatedly his over-crowded table, and gardeners are laying out their grounds in the warm, sandy soil where, as the former owner of the place solemnly declared, the hogs often grew fat on the native wild strawberries and dewberries of the Sandy Woods.

For some time to come, Morley must sustain towards Northeastern Arkansas and a good portion of southeast Missouri, a position somewhat similar to that which Sedalia occupied towards southwest Missouri, when the gravel road from Morley to Bloomfield is perfected, on account of the location of the lands and good roads leading from New Madrid, Kennett and Chalk Bluff, to that point (Morley).

At Lucas Bend a massive steam sawmill, planing mill, and other lumber machinery manufactured in Ohio, and controlled by Messrs. Barnes & Moore, of Illinois, were seen waiting to be carried on the cars to Caney Creek, in Scott County, where the thick and high timbers of the forest are inviting the pioneer to fill his pockets with fortune."

Aug. 15, 1869, Commerce Dispatch: "SYLVANIA"(later St. Cloud & Oran) "James H. Kew surveyed the town of 400 lots July 6, 1869. These were sold for $50 per lot. Built mainly by former citizens of Charleston, Mo., at this juncture Shelby & Smith are erecting a large steam sawmill. A.B. McElmurry has built a house and opened a dry goods store. Dr. Dines is building a house for a drug store, also a dwelling house. William Hudson is soon to begin a dwelling, also J.L. Shelby. William Brock is building a steam saw and grist mill.

Thick forests have been felled on and around the townsite, and the ground is yet encumbered with heavy logs of every shape, size and length, and without number. About 15 houses have already been completed. Three doctors, Dines, Radcliffe (who also owns a brick kiln), and Porterfield, are established there. Also, a man named Friend is running a drug store."

Four other towns were constructed in Scott County because of the coming of the Iron Mountain Railroad. Two of these, Aderton City and Caney Creek were sawmill towns on the railroad northwest of Sylvania or Oran. Aderton City's history will be given in some detail later in this book.

As to Caney Creek, it was the site of a sawmill and planing mill and a depot. Its population in 1880 was estimated at "about 40."

Nevertheless, even in 1880 the county was not, by any means, completely settled. The 1880 "Report of the State Board of Agriculture," for example, tells us that:

"The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Co. has a large quantity of fine timber, agricultural and grazing lands in the wild state, which are sold at from two to five dollars per acre. The Scott County Immigration Society will be happy to furnish information to intending immigrants on the above points."

Commerce, in 1880, having just lost the countyseat offices, and presumably some residents, still had a population of 440. Morley was the county's second largest town, with a population of 325. Sikeston, by then growing rapidly, had only 291 residents.

Some time during the 1880s Sikeston passed Commerce in population, but Commerce continued to grow until it reached a peak of 593 in 1920. By 1930 its population had dropped to 351. By 1980 it was down to 199.

ASSESSOR'S LIST OF VALUES AND OWNERS OF TOWN LOTS IN COMMERCE IN 1870

Assessed Value

Lot 1 Joseph T. Anderson $25

Lot 2 Wiley A. Hughes $1,600

Lot 3 heirs of Samuel Ross $1,200

Lot 4 heirs of William P. Darnes $1,200

N. part Lot 5 James H. Ross $400

(4 ft.) S. part Lot 5 Vincent Heisserer $15.

N½ of N½ Lot 6 Vincent Heisserer $900

S½ of N½ of Lot 6 Anton Ruff $1,500

S½ Lot 6 Wm. B. Anderson $1,300

N½ Lot 7 William Burgess $1,400

S½ of Lot 7 William Ballentine $1,000

NE. part of Lot 8 Thomas S. Rhoades $800

Central part E½ of Lot 8 Joseph H. Moore $800.

SE. part of Lot 8 Carroll Moye $700

E½ of West ½ Lot 8 Patrick Kelly $100

W½ of W½ Lot 8 Lenhard Kaffenberger $120.

E. part of Lot 9 Gregor Oberly $1,500

W. part of Lot 9 Wm. B. Anderson $700.

N½ Lot 10 Fritz Kruse $100

S½ Lot 10 Henry Vogel $400

Lot 11 Benjamin F. Allen $175

Lot 12 George N. Watson $1,200

Lot 13 Patrick Kelly & Carroll Moye $250.

Same, Lot 14 $250

Lot 15, John D. Foster $175

Same, Lot 16 $800

Lot 17 Jonathan S. Clemson $750.

Lot 18 F.X. McCabe $140

Lot 19 Isaac Hunter $100

Same, Lot 20 $100

E part Lot 21, heirs of Rebecca Hunt $125.

W part of Lot 21, John D. Foster $250

Lot 22 John A. Ross $400

Lot 23 F.X. McCabe $75

Lot 24, heirs of Rebecca Hunt $80

Lot 25 Lucinda Bean $350

Lot 26 Sarah Webster $900

Lot 27 Patrick Kelly & Carroll Moye $125

Same, Lot 28 $125

Lot 29, Jhob Worsley $180

Lot 30 Sarah A. Porterfield $800

Lot 31 E. part, Carroll Moye $75

Lot 31 W. part, Charles H. Kew $75

Lot 32, E. Part, Carroll Moye $800

Lot 32, W. Part, Louis Dannenmueller, Est. $130.

E½ of E½ Lot 33, Wm. Ballentine $700

also (W½ of E½ Lot 33, Ann. E. Silman, or legal representatives. $100

(W½ of 33, $1,300.)

E½ of Lot 34, William Burgess $125

W½ Lot 34, Ann. E. Silman, or legal repr. $125

Lot 35, Ann. E. Silman, or legal representatives. ($400)

Lot 36, James Heuchan, or legal representatives ($900.)

Lot 37, Frederick De Wint $800

Lot 38, Frederick De Wint $50

Assessed Values

Lot 39, Joseph H. Moore $15

Lot 40, Joseph T. Anderson $20

Lot 41, Jhob Worsley $20

Lot 42, Jhob Worsley $20

Lot 43, Harriet Forrest $200

Lot 44, Jhob Worsley $50

Lot 45, Thomas S. Rhoades $1,200

Lot 46, Thomas S. Rhoades $100

Lot 47, Ann. E. Silman, or legal repr. ($350.)

Lot 48, Frances Wilbourn $700

Lots 49, 50, 51 & 52, Public Square

Lot 53, John Glaus $400

Lot 54, Henry G. Frehe $400

Lot 55, Charles Beattie $700

Lot 56, Frederick De Wint $90

Lot 57, R. Bay Wade $450

Lot 58, Benj. B. Gaither $250

Lot 59, Benj. B. Gaither $80

Lot 60, Leander Scott $150

Lot 61, Heirs of Rebecca Hunt $150

Lot 62, Isaac Griffiths $300

Lot 63, Isaac Griffith $75

Lot 64, African Meth. Epis. Church

Lot 65, Nancy L. Harrison $150

Lot 66, John D. Porterfield $85.

Lot 67, Joseph L. Ducos $85

Lot 68, Joseph L. Ducos $350

Lots 69, 70, 71 & 72, Public Square

Lot 73, E½, Vincent Heisserer $500

Assessed Values

Lot 73, W½, George W. Arnold $700

Lot 74, E½, Vincent Heisserer $50

Lot 74, W½, George W. Arnold $50

Lot 75, George Bradley $250

Lot 76, Vincent Heisserer $10

Lot 77, Sallie Griffiths $15

Lot 78, Sallie Griffiths $15

Lot 79, Joseph T. Anderson $15

Lot 80, Joseph T. Anderson $15

Lots 81, 82, 83, 84 & 85, Jhob Worsley. All each, except Lot 85, which is $75.

Lot 86, Joseph H. Moore $25

Lot 87, George W. Fricke $60

Lots 88 & 89, George W. Fricke $100 each

Lot 90, Jhob Worsley $100

Lot 91, Wm. B. Anderson $150

Lot 92, Jhob Worsley $125

Lots 93 & 94, Elizabeth Gladwyn $200 & $80

Lots 95 & 96, Jhob Worsley $80 each

Lot 97, Eliza E. Isbell $250

Lot 98, Jhob Worsley $75

Lot 99, Elijah Hall $300

Lot 100, Washington Ross $250

Lots 102 to 106, Jhob Worsley, $75, $230, $7 $75 & $75.

Lot 107, Lenhard Kaffenburger $400

Lot 108, Frederick Galler $100

Lot 109, Wm. Burgess $1,100

Lots 110 & 111, Wm. B. Anderson $90, $450.

Lot 112, Frederick Bettis $20

Lot 113, George W. Arnold $20

Lot 114, Fritz Baumgartner $20

Lots 115, 116 & 117, Jhob Worsley, $20 each

Assessed Values

Lots Nos. 118, 119 & 120
Public Cemetery

Lot 121, Elizabeth Crow $15

Lot 122, George H. Watson $100

Lot 123, Benjamin F. Hunter $14,000 Steam Mill

Lot 124, N½, Benjamin Hunter $350

Lot 124, S½, Wm. Burgess $350

Lot 125, N½, Wm. B. Anderson $700

Lot 125, S½, Joseph T. Anderson $3,500

Lot 126, N. part, Joseph T. Anderson $350

Lot 126, Central pt., James Doomes $500

Lot 126, S. part, Horatio P. Lynch $2,200

SILMAN & COMPANY'S 1857 ADDITION TO COMMERCE

Lot 1, Benj. B. Gaither $1,000

Lot 2, Benjamin McKinley $400

Lot 3, William Ballentine $80

Lot 4, SCHOOL HOUSE

Lot 5, D. Clinton Billings $450

Lot 6, Samuel Darnes $650

Lot 7, Francis Ellis $160

Lot 8, Thos. S. Rhoades & Geo. Fricke $75

Lot 9, Wm. McKinley $525

Lot 10, T.S. Rhoades & G.W. Fricke $70

Lot 11, T.S. Rhoades & G.W. Fricke $20

Lot 12, Eliza Ann Doome $500

Lot 13, T.S. Rhoades & G.W. Fricke $70

Lot 14, Thomas C. Adams $300

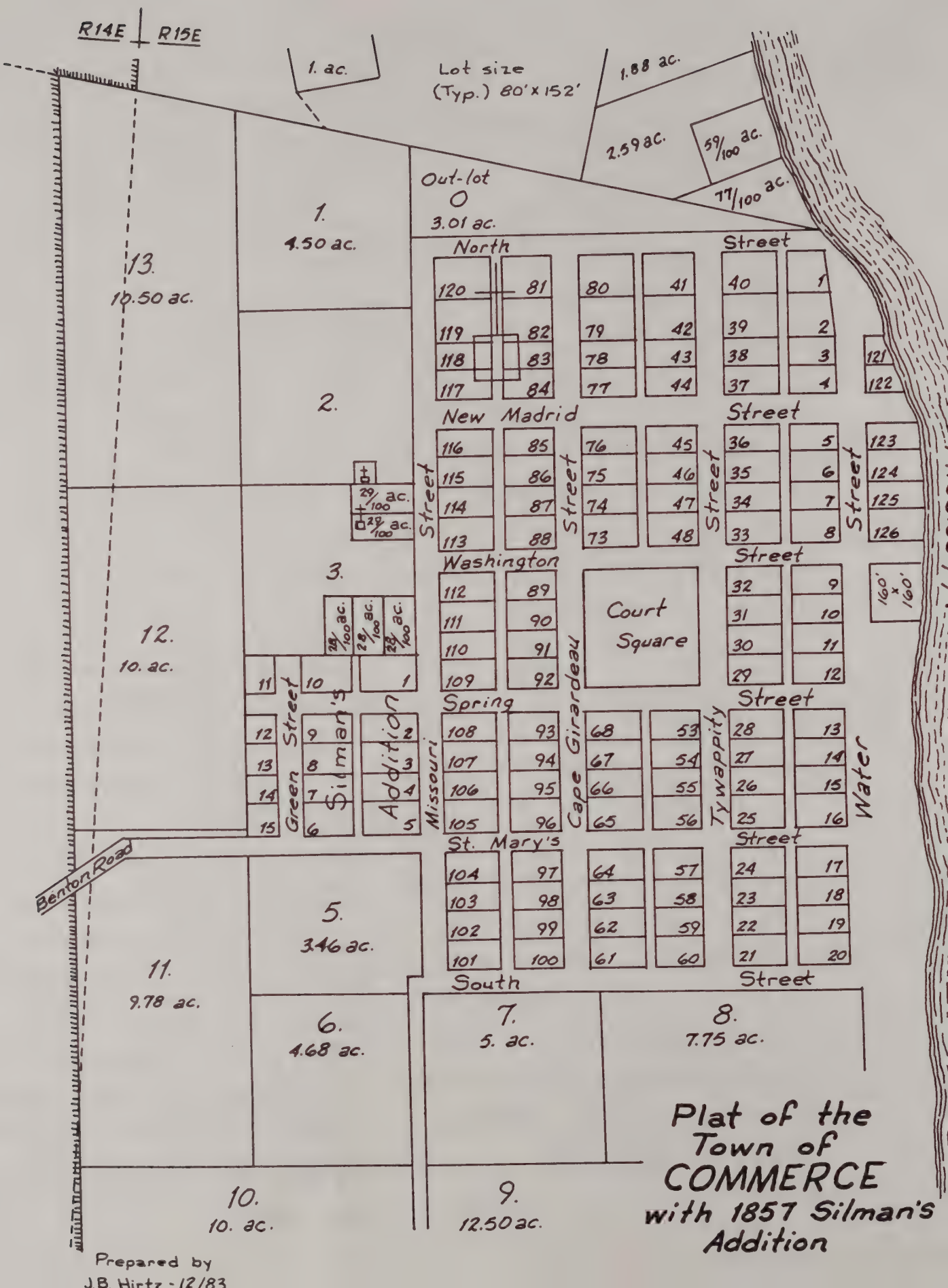
Lot 15, Lewis Byrne. $125

NOTES:

Examination of this list shows that Commerce had at least 123 buildings in 1870, and that 16 of these had values of $1,000 to $14,000, while 35 were valued at $500 or more.

By contrast, Morley, the county's second largest town, had only one house worth even as much as $1,000; and Sikeston topped out with two $700 buildings; and Benton had only one building worth even that figure.

All of which indicates that Commerce in 1870, was the only real town in the county. The others were, by contrast, mere villages.


R14E
R15E
1. ac.
Lot size
(Typ.) 80'x152'
1.88 ac.
2.59 ac.
59/100 ac.
77/100 ac.
Out-lot
O
3.01 ac.
1.
4.50 ac.
13.
10.50 ac.
2.
3.
12.
10. ac.
11.
9.78 ac.
5.
3.46 ac.
6.
4.68 ac.
10.
10. ac.
7.
5. ac.
8.
7.75 ac.
9.
12.50 ac.
North Street
New Madrid Street
Washington Street
Spring Street
St. Mary's Street
South Street
Court Square
Green Street
Silman's Addition
Missouri
Cape Girardeau
Tywappity
Water
Benton Road
29/100 ac.
29/100 ac.
28/100 ac.
28/100 ac.
28/100 ac.
160' x 160'
Plat of the Town of COMMERCE with 1857 Silman's Addition
Prepared by
J.B. Hirtz - 12/83

When you scan the foregoing list of the owners of property in Commerce, you will note there is no mention of a Methodist church building for the white population of Commerce, yet we know there was a brick building there that was used for that purpose. This is proved by the county court entry of Jan. 26, 1864, which directed that "the county seat of Scott County be removed from the town of Benton to the town of Commerce, and there being no court house in Commerce it is therefore ordered by the court, that courts of the county hereafter be held at the brick church house" in Commerce.

This puzzled me until I found the following information in an article on the history of the Commerce Methodist Church that was published in a Sept. 24, 1936 special edition of the Scott County Democrat:

"It is not known just when Methodism got its start at Commerce, but a building was used there as a church and school as early as 1854. In 1889 that structure was sold to Joe Buckhart, who tore it down and sold the bricks on the market. This church was located on the site of the present Baptist church, west of the Commerce consolidated school."

The 1870 assessment list shows that this school-church building was located on Lot 4 in Silman's addition to Commerce. And since the Commerce Methodists were largely of the southern persuasion, this building would not have been in use as a church in 1864. As a public school building, it would thus have been available for housing the county's various offices.

The Southern Methodist church, in effect, was outlawed in those territories controlled by the federal government. Many of their

ministers were thrown in prison, some were killed, and others fled to the South for safety.

Among the latter was Bishop Enoch Marvin, who fled south out of St. Louis on the night of Feb. 17, 1862. He was passed along from station to station on a sort of underground railroad that went through the backwoods from St. Louis to Arkansas. This line, along which all contraband travel and freight passed, ran through Fenton and Richwoods, to the west of Potosi, south through Reynolds County, thence into Carter County, passing five miles to the west of Van Buren, and from that point, on into Fulton County, Arkansas. The rest and concealment stations were about ten miles apart, The guides and attendants along this line were known only to each other, and to those who were accepted and passed along it.

Anyone interested in learning more about the treatment meted out to Missouri's Southern Methodist ministers during the war should read Rev. W.M. Leftwich's two-volume work on "Martyrdom in Missouri," published at St. Louis in 1869 and 1870.

But even the pastors of less controversial denominations, such as the Baptist, had their share of problems in this region during the Civil War. In fact, from 1864 to 1867 there was but one Baptist minister, John H. Clark, who dared do any ministerial work in any of the three counties that then made up the Cape Girardeau Association.

Incidentally, Commerce, an early Methodist stronghold, did not have a Baptist church until 1906. The nearest Baptist church prior to that was the Pleasant Hill church, located on the line dividing the SE¼ from the NE¼, both in the NW¼ of Section 28N., Range 14E, or about 3 miles (southeast)--- SE of Kelso. The site was purchased in 1854 by Langdon Poole, a Missionary Baptist deacon. Poole paid John D. Ancell $100 for the two acre tract, and the church building that was erected on it is said to have cost $300. Services were held there from about 1854 to 1906.

Goodspeed's Hist. of SE. Mo., mentions a Pleasant Hill Baptist

church as being in Scott County in 1829. The connection, if any, between it and the 1854 church is unknown.

The African Methodist Church site (Lot 64) in Commerce was purchased in 1869, and the building thereon must have been erected almost immediately thereafter, in order for it to have been assessed as such late in 1870.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY, COMMERCE, Mo., 1881

M. Petty, dealer in dry goods and groceries

John Woods, merchant, retired

J.J. Gaither, proprietor general merchandise store

Robert B. Heuchan, undertaker & manufacturer & dealer in furniture

Nicholas Heisserer, proprietor of a saloon & billiard parlor

T.J. Hughes, confectionery & grocery store. Sadie Hughes, saleslady

S.R. Jones, proprietor Commerce Mill & Grain Elevators

Charles H. Dew, title abstracts, civil engineering & surveying

Wm. Ballentine, postmaster, attorney & farmer

Dr. J.R. Coffman, physician & surgeon. Office corner of Water & Spring Sts.

John D. Foster, Judge of Missouri's 10th Judicial Circuit

Benjamin B. Gaither, Member of Missouri House of Representatives

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT SUBMITTED MAY 30, 1865 BY DR. JAMES R. McCORMICK of the SURGEON BOARD OF ENROLLMENT, IRONTON, MO., FOR THE 3rd DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, WHICH INCLUDED SCOTT COUNTY.

The following excerpts were taken from the two volumes of "Medical Statistics of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau," which were published by the U.S. government at Washington in 1875.

"Typhoid fever made its appearance in Southeast Missouri about ten years ago, since which time it has prevailed more or less every year. During the four (war) years it has increased in frequency and intensity. The causes of this are, I think, to be found in the habits of camp life and the privations to which civil war subjects a people, the wretched habitations, unwholesome food, and mental depression so commonly seen among the refugees at military posts and garrisoned towns of the State.

Erysipelas, in the malarious swamp district, at times appears as a malignant epidemic. The 'black tongue' of New Madrid is a gangrenous form of this disease, generally attacking the throat, and accompanied by typhoid symptoms, which prove speedily fatal in a majority of cases.

Hernia is of frequent occurrence, and is, in part, at least, owing to the occupations of the inhabitants, who, in raising buildings, felling timber, rolling logs, and performing other heavy work necessary to clear land, must of necessity subject themselves to frequent strains.

The diseases peculiar to this swamp district are remitting and intermitting bilious fevers, which are common from July to October; dysentery, bilious diarrhoea, and cholera infantum are more or less prevalent.

During the hot season, if the winds prevail a day or two from the south, the malaria generated in the great swamp regions is wafted to

the higher country.

This great swamp country is the haunt of wild animals, bands of guerillas, and outlawed men; the latter for the last four years have continually committed depredations upon the lives and property of citizens, and waylaid and fired upon soldiers in camp and on the march.

It is in these swamps that malaria is generated; ague and bilious affections make yearly inroads upon the health and constitutions of the inhabitants; enlarged spleens and dropsical affections are common. During the winter-season, pneumonia is very prevalent and fatal.

The climate is especially fatal to children; cholera infantum, worms, ague, and pneumonia carry many off in the first few years of childhood.

Parts of every county embraced in the swamp district are dry and susceptible of cultivation. The inhabitants who gave their attention to agricultural pursuits prior to the present war were prosperous and growing wealthy; but the better class have left their homes, and many farms are now tenantless and in ruins. Persons living in and on the margins of the swamps are generally idle, ignorant, and vicious, following hunting, and giving but little time and labor to farming or improving the country; in many instances, they have joined guerilla bands, and have played the outlaw during the present rebellion.

In conducting medical examinations in this district, with a view to induction into military service, I have found developed tuberculosis a cause for exemption in more cases than any other disease, the ratio being 74 in every thousand. Hernia is also common, the ratio at this office being 43 in the thousand, a still greater percentage being found

among men over forty-five years of age. Probably ten per cent of all men over the age of twenty-one years are afflicted by this disease in some one of its forms.

Feigning diseases was the fraud most commonly attempted to be practiced on me by drafted and enrolled men. Diseases of the heart and kidneys and impaired vision and hearing were those most commonly feigned."

Other diseases in which this southeastern Missouri district ranked in the topmost statistical category were chronic rheumatism, 20 or more per 1,000; syphilis, 7 or more per thousand; epilepsy, 14 or more per 1,000, and eye diseases, 32 or more cases per 1,000.

[illegible]

SCOTT COUNTY MEN WHO SERVED IN THE UNION ARMY OR HOME GUARDS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

From the Adjutant General's Report of Battery F, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery, which was organized at Cape Girardeau in the fall of 1861 by Captain John Wesley Powell, later head of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of American Ethnology.

A handwritten copy of the above report was kindly supplied to me by Mr. Ben Wilkinson, Route 1, Scott City, Mo.

BAT. F, 2nd ILL. LGT. ART.

Valentine Herold, discharged March 8, 1864. Disability.

Asa Hawkins, discharged April 30, 1862

Alma Hutchins, died of wounds received at Shiloh April 7, 1862

William Hawkins, reenlisted as veteran

John A. Harrison, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

Corporal John M. Chiley, reenlisted as veteran

Charles Bonhardt, died at Cape Girardeau, Mo.

William Bess, died at Cape Girardeau March 8, 1862

John C. Boyce, reenlisted as veteran

Louis Blumenberg, discharged March 17, 1863. Disability.

George Cherry, reenlisted as veteran

Richard Clark, reenlisted as veteran

Charles Carroll, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

John Campbell, reenlisted as veteran

John Coats, mustered out as sergeant Dec. 14, 1864

James K. Coats, discharged for disability

John H. Kirkland, reenlisted as veteran

Gottliep Krugger, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864 (probably Krieger)

Nathan W. Lackey, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

BATTERY F, 2nd ILLINOIS LIGHT ARTILLERY: Continued.

Henry C. Miller, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

Philip J. Miller, died May 19, 1862

Michael McCarty, reenlisted as veteran

Charles B. Messmer, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864, as bugler

John Mifflin, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

James Chewning, discharged

Solomon Counseilor ?, discharged

J.W. Clarke, dropped from rolls Aug. 1, 1864

Fridolin Glastetter, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864. Enlisted Aug. 4, 1861

John Ruble, enlisted Aug. 4, 1861. Mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

John Rasberry, killed at Vicksburg June 13, 1863

Benjamin Ragsdale, reenlisted as veteran

Jesse Spradling, enlisted Jan. 1st, 1864, mustered out July 27, 1865

Wash. M. Stewart, died at Marietta, Georgia, July 30, 1864

George Schroyer, dropped from rolls Aug. 7, 1864

Anton Uelsmann, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

Rudolph Smith, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

John H. Smith, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

Alfred Smith, discharged April 12, 1863

Jacob Scheibler, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

Jesse Spradling, reenlisted as veteran

George Scism, discharged Feb. 19, 1863

Samuel Scism, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

Samuel M. Stewart, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

James W. Stewart, mustered out Dec. 14, 1864

William A. Steward, discharged Oct. 27, 1862. Disability

Edward Abbey, enlisted Sept. 28, 1863. Mustered out as sergeant July 27, 1865

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SCOTT COUNTY MEN ENROLLED BY CAPT. CHARLES HINRICHS IN COMPANY L, 10th MISSOURI CAVALRY, UNION ARMY

What follows was copied from a microfilm of the unpublished papers of Captain Hinrichs, now on file in the Western Historical Manuscripts Division of the State Historical Society of Missouri at Columbia, Mo. We are indebted to Mr. Robert B. Rolwing, who found this material and was kind enough to pass it along for use in this history.

Captain Charles F. Hinrichs was born in Germany on Feb. 15, 1828 and came to America in 1844, but did not settle in Cape Girardeau County until 1848. In 1861 he enlisted in the Missouri State Militia, and in the following year joined up with Company L, 10th Missouri Cavalry as a first lieutenant. In August of 1863 he was promoted to captain, and served in the army until the close of the war, participating, during this period, in some sixty engagements.

In the fall of 1862 Captain Ruhl was at Hamburg, Benton and Commerce enlisting men for service in Hinrichs' company. Records of these enlistments follow.

John M. Frank, 25 years old, 5 ft. 7 in. tall, fair complexion, brown eyes, brown hair, born in Germany, cigarmaker, enlisted Sept. 28, 1862 at Hamburg for term of 3 years. Remarks: Reduced to ranks.

Louis Albrecht, age 25, from Commerce, born in Germany.

Adam Burger, Sergeant, age 44, 5 ft. 6½ in., light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, Hamburg, born in France, farmer, enlisted for 3 years Oct. 14, 1862. Deserted Dec. 1, 1862. Returned to duty Oct. 6, 1863.

Jacob Enderly, 21, 5 ft. 6 in., fair, gray eyes, dark hair, born in Missouri, enlisted at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862, farmer, 3-year term. Deserted (as corporal) Dec. 1, 1862. Returned to duty Oct. 6, 1863.

Michael Ourth, 32, 5 ft. 9 in., fair, blue eyes, brown hair, Belgium, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Oct. 3, 1862, farmer. Absent on detached

service in the Dept. since Aug. 12, 1864, as teamster.

Frederick Sandvos, age 45, 6 ft. 2 in., fair, blue eyesm dark hair, born in Germany, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862. Captured April 16, 1863 near Barton Station, Alabama. Exchanged and returned to duty June 10, 1863. Absent on detached service in the department since March 21, 1865. Discharged May 25, 1865 at Nashville.

John Pobb, 33, 5 ft. 9 in., light complexion, blue eyes, light hair, farmer, born in Germany, enlisted for 3 years Sept. 27, 1862 at Hamburg. Deserted.

Samuel Diebold, age 37, 5 ft. 6½ in., dark comp., brown eyes, black hair, farmer, born in Ohio, enlisted for 3 years Sept. 28, 1862 at Hamburg. Deserted.Listed also as "farrier," shoeing horses.

Frederick Segab (Segal?), 35, 5 ft. 3½ in., carpenter, fair comp., hazel eyes, gray hair, Germany, enlisted at Hamburg Oct. 2, 1862 for 3 years. On furlough Aug. 31, 1863. Returned Sept. 25, 1863. On detached service since Mar. 21, 1865. Returned June 6, 1865.

Adam Burger, Jr., age 18, 5 ft. 8 in., fair, blue eyes, brown hair, born Chio, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Oct. 14, 1862.

Dyonisius Diebold, age 42, 5 ft. 8 in., dark comp., brown eyes, brown hair, born in Germany, farmer, enlisted for 3 years, Scott County, Oct. 2, 1862. Deserted Dec. 23, 1862. Returned to duty March 18, 1864 by special order from "Headquarters, Vicksburg, Miss.," with the loss of all pay and allowances accumulated during his absence from service.

Frank Enderle, 24, 5 ft. 11 in., dark comp., blue eyes, brown hair, born Ohio, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg on Sept. 28, 1862. Deserted 13, 1862. Returned to duty Oct. 6, 1863. Absent sick in hospital at Vicksburg, Miss., Feb. 10, 1864. Died of disease at Gazvau Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., March 31, 1864.

Michael Herhang (Heuring?), age 38, 5 ft. 3 in., dark comp., blue eyes, brown hair, France, farmer, enlisted Sept. 27, 1862 in Scott County for 3 years. Absent of furlough after May 31, 1863. Returned from furlough Sept. 25, 1863.

Louis Hahn, age 20, 5 ft. 6 in., dark comp., blue eyes, brown hair, France, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Oct. 15, 1862. Deserted in February of 1863.

Jacob Koelzer, age 45, 5 ft. 10 in., dark comp., brown eyes, black hair, Prussia, farmer, enlisted for 3 years in Scott Co. Sept. 28, 1862. Discharged.

Andrew Morper, 21, 5 ft. 9 in., fair comp., blue eyes, red hair, France, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862. Deserted.

John Meinz, age 36, 5 ft. 2 in., fair comp., brown eyes, brown hair, Germany, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862. Deserted, but later returned to duty.

Jacob Regard, age 39, 5 ft. 6 in., fair comp., blue eyes, brown hair, France, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Oct. 3, 1862. Deserted Dec. 23, 1862. Returned to his regiment Feb. 23, 1864. Restored to duty by Special Order No. 104, datelined "Headquarters, Vicksburg, Miss., April 22, 1864, with loss of pay during absence. Killed in action near Rolla, Tenn., Nov. 5, 1864.

Mathias Schotte, 18, 5 ft. 7 in., dark comp., blue eyes, light hair, France, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept 27, 1862. Deserted December of 1862. Returned to duty Oct. 6, 1863.

Michael Scaefer, age 27, fair comp., blue eyes, dark hair, Germany, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862. Deserted Dec., 1862.

Mark Seifert (Seufert?), age 38, 5 ft. 4 in., fair comp., brown eyes & hair, Bavaria, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862. Left on furlough Aug. 27, 1863. Returned to duty Oct. 5, 1863.

Michael Treinen, 18, 5 ft. 5 in., fair comp., blue eyes, brown hair, born in Ohio, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 28, 1862. Deserted. Returned to duty Jan. 15, 1864.

Peter Thomas, 25, 5 ft. 11 in., fair comp., blue eyes, brown hair, born in Ohio, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Oct. 14, 1862. Died.

Joseph Tschamber, 20, 5 ft., fair comp., gray eyes, dark hair, born in Chio, enlisted for 3 years at Benton Oct. 2, 1862. Absent sick at Memphis since August of 1864.

Frederick Unnerstall, age 33, 5 ft. 6 in., dark complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, Germany, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg Sept. 27, 1862. Deserted. Returned to duty.

Anton Klipfell, age 45, 5 ft. 2 in., dark complexion, brown eyes & hair, enlisted for 3 years at Benton Oct. 2, 1862. Born in France. Deserted December, 1862.

Jacob Blattel, age 32, 5 ft. 8 in., light complexion, hazel eyes, light hair, Germany, farmer, enlisted for 3 years at Hamburg on Oct. 5, 1862. Deserted December of 1862.

Captain Hinrichs' papers also listed the clothes issued to the men of his unit. However, Mr. Rolwing copied only those issued to his great-great grandfather Anton Klipfel,who was in the army less than three months. During that period he was issued

two blankets, value $5.90

1 pair of infantry pants, value $3.03

1 cavalry jacket, value $5.84

1 pair of boots, value $3.33

2 shirts, value $1.76

2 pairs of socks, value 52¢. Total value $20.38

The lack of punishment of these so-called "deserters" convinces me that these desertions were made with the tacit approval of their immediate

commanding officers. Other than the withholding of their pay and allowances during their absence from duty, no reprimand or other punishment seems to have been administered to them although some of them were absent almost two years.

Considering the situation at Hamburg, it is likely, since official permission for such an absence could not be given, that their commanding officer gave verbal, or tacit, approval for them to return home to protect their families, provide food for them, and perhaps restore damaged or destroyed homes to the extent of making them livable during the winter of 1862-1863.

Another Scott County veteran of the Civil War for whom we have detailed information, thanks to Mrs. Sylvester Glastetter, is John Blattel, who enlisted Jan. 20, 1864 at Cape Girardeau under the name of Johannes Blaettel. Mr. Blattel, who gave his occupation as that of a farmer, was described as 20 years old, 5 ft. 2 in. tall, and as being of light complexion. He served as a private under Capt. Workman, Company A, 2nd Regiment of Missouri Light Artillery. He was discharged at Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., on Aug. 24, 1865. His enlistment papers indicate that he was born Dec. 24, 1844 in the Duchy of Nassau, later a part of Prussia.

Probably you have noticed, as I did, that these veterans seem to have been much shorter than the average man today. To determine whether or not this was the case, I added the heights of the 33 soldiers for whom height figures are given, and divided the total by 33, and found their average height to have been 5 feet 6 inches, which is somewhat below the national average in 1860, which was 5 ft. 7 2/3 inches.

SCOTT COUNTY, MO., HOME GUARDS

These were men who were usually too young or too old for army duty, but who volunteered for local service in defense of the lives and property of their neighbors, and for other local military service. Andrew Buhs, for example, served in the Home Guard although he was 51 years old when the war started.

Andrew Heisserer, Mo. Home Guards, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Matthew Schlosser, May 5, 1866 to Oct. 5, 1866

Andrew Schoen, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

George Bles ? May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Joseph Glastetter, May 6, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Ulrich Glaus, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Wolfgang Dirnberger, May 6, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Michael Dirnberger, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Charles F. Bonnefair, 1863.

Thomas C. Adams, August, 1861

Jacob Amos, Oct. 2, 1862 to Sept. 19, 1865

Denis Diebold, 1862 to Sept. 19, 1865

Jose Bonne (Joseph Burkhart?) Miller, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Martin Meineke, May 6, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Michael Legrand, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

John A. Scherer, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Jacob Diebold, May 1, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Peter Diebold, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Henley Schoen, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Fridolin Glastetter, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

HOME GUARDS--Continued

George Meineke, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Matthew Kampe, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Louis Bucher, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Clark Vather, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Valentine Scherer, May 8, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Ferdinand Bischer, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Jacob Westrich, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Francis Krantz, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Francis Heuring, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861. Lieutenant

Joseph Miller, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Many of the above were discharged in August, 1861 to enlist in the Union armies. Those who served in the Home Guards and were not discharged were:

August Hillemann, Clarke Henderson, Maximillian Brenneisen, Henry Meinz, Samuel Diebold, Nicholas Welter, William Lauck, Henry Peetz, Philip Ruble, David Roth, Martin Weismuller, William Rahmueller, Frank Dohogne, Peter Gosche, Charles Messmer (see Co. F., 2nd Ill. Light Artillery roster), Julius Albrecht, John Messmer, John Sanders, Henry Hilleman, Charles F. Held, Daniel Eifert, Wilhelm Vordenfeld, Daniel Rubel, Charles Robert, Henry Westerhold, Henry Musbach.

Christopher Schuette, June 27, 1861 to July 29, 1861

Henry Fitzsprenger, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Joseph Boussenmair, May 4, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Peter Peetz, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Frank Kaiser, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

John Ourth, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861. Captain.

Joseph Georger, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

HOME GUARD--Continued

John Glueck, May 1, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Lawrence Hoefler, May 1, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

Andrew Uelsmann, May 8, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861

John Gosche, Pvt., A, May 5, 1861-Aug. 5, 1861

Wolfgang Dirnberger, Pvt., May 6, 1861-Aug. 5, 1861

Joseph Kieffer, Pvt., B, May 4, 1861-Aug. 5, 1861

The Scott County Home Guards were enlisted in May of 1861 for three month's service. There were four battalions of them under the command of Major Daniel Abbey and captains John Ourth, Constantine Grojean, James Daniels and Frank Klepman.

UNION SOLDIERS, MISCELLANEOUS UNITS

SANDY WOODS TOWNSHIP:

James M. Goad, Private, Company E, 10th Regiment Tennessee Infantry.

Franklin Forbes, Private.

Morris Jourdan, Pvt.

John Moon, Pvt., H, 133 Ill. Inf. Feb. 1865 to Sept. 1865

Samuel T. Quinley, Pvt., B, 1st Ky. Cav., Oct. 4, 1862 to Apr. 13, 1865

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP:

James C. Clymer, Pvt., D, 50th Mo. Inf. Sept 2, 1864-July 1, 1865

Ancel Holder

August Ledure

Augustus C. Rasberry, Pvt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1864-July 1, 1865

Joseph Anderson, Capt., State Militia, 1862-1863

John D. Clymer, Pvt., G, 12th Tenn. Cav., Aug. 9, 1861-July 26, 1865

George Allen, Pvt., A, 15th Ill. Cav., Aug. 10, 1861-Mar. 12, 1862

Gottleib C. Rose, Major, 4th Mo. Cavalry, April, 1861-Dec. 23, 1864

Wolfgang Weber, Cpl., F, Mo. Inf. Aug. 11, 1862-June 13,1865

John Weber, Pvt., F, 29th Mo. Inf.

John D. Estes, Col., G, 22nd Mo. Inf., Aug. 20, 1861-Sept. 1864

Larkin M. Hughes, Pvt., D, 4th Tenn. Cav., July 20, 1863-July 12, 1865

David Spradlin, Pvt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1864-July 1, 1865

Morgan A. Hill, Cpl., C, 122nd Ill. Inf., Sept. 14, 1862-July 15, 1865

Henry Meinz, Pvt., 50th Mo. Inf., Nov. 6, 1864-Aug. 5, 1865

Madison Ross, no data.

Joseph Burkhardt, Pvt., F, 7th Ill. Inf., Oct. 3, 1861-July 9, 1865

George Canion (Cannon?), Pvt., D, U.S. Inf., April 1864-June 1865

Samuel H. Clymer, Pvt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1864-July 1, 1865

Francis M. Ellis, Pvt., H, 56 Col. Inf. Enlisted July, 1863

Watson A. Riggs, Pvt., I, 2nd Ky. Cav., Sept. 18, 1861-Dec. 19, 1864

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP--Continued

Thomas J. Pool, Pvt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1864-July 1, 1865

Theodore F. Frazer, 1st Lieut. (This is Dr. Frazer, later at Commerce. He makes no mention of military service in the biography he submitted to the compilers of Goodspeed's Hist. SE. Mo.)

Andrew Donaldson, Pvt., C, 64th Col. Inf., Dec. 5, 1863-Mar. 13, 1866

Wm. W. Campbell, Capt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1862-July 1, 1865

Caplan Ogden, Cpl., C, 60th Col. Inf., Dec. 5, 1863-Mar. 13, 1866

John Roden, Pvt., no dates, but served 8 months.

Esau Riley, Sgt., H, 50th Col. Inf., June 16, 1863-Sept. 13, 1866.

Robert B. Heuchan, Capt., C, 57th Ind. Inf., Nov. 20, 1861-Jan. 8, 1865

James Murray, Pvt., H, 44th Mo. Inf., Aug. 25, 1864-July 14, 1865

John Dailey, 1st Lieut., G, 131st Ill. Inf., Aug. 14, 1862-Nov. 1, 1865

Jonathan Torbert, Pvt., B, 1st Del. Cav., Sept. 5, 1862-June 7, 1865

Wm. C. Marshall, no dates or other information

Louis Burns, Pvt., 4th Col. Art., Aug. 5, 1864-Feb. 25, 1866

Thomas C. Cooksey, Pvt., F, 6th Ky. Cav., Aug., 1862-June, 1865

TYWAPPITY TOWNSHIP

Henry Markhart, Pvt., D, 71st Ind. Inf. Aug., 1861-May 3, 1862

Charles C. Poe, Cpl., A, 15th Ill., Cav., Dec. 26,1861-Dec. 26, 1864

Smith Vaughn, Cpl., 4th Tenn. Cav., Jan. 1863-July 14, 1865

Thomas B. Dodge, Pvt., H, 50th Mo. Inf., discharged Aug. 15, 1863

Edward Gibson, Pvt., E, 3rd Tenn. Inf., July 18, 1864-Nov. 13, 1864

Ferdinand Ostnes, Pvt., A, 3rd Mo. Inf., June 1863-June 1, 1865

Ernst Ohmes, Pvt., B, MS Militia, Inf., July 30, 1861-Jan. 15, 1862

John C. Warrell, Pvt, G., 79th Illinois Inf., Aug. 14, 1862-Feb. 5, 1863

Thomas Spencer, Pvt., H, 83rd Ill. Inf., Aug. 7-1862-May 29, 1865

James E. Collins, Pvt., K., 3rd Ohio Cav., Sept. 9, 1862-June 1, 1865

Wm. M. Brake, Pvt., F, 12th Tenn. Cav., Feb. 1863-Oct. 8, 1865

David Mattingly, Cpl., H., 6th Ky. Cav., July 10, 1862-July 1, 1865

Granville Stewart, Pvt., A., 7th Ky. Cav., L862-1864 (1 year 6 mths.)

SANDY WOODS TOWNSHIP

Ander Ward, Pvt., April to August, 1865

Hart Ramsey, Cpl., G, 9th Mo. Inf., Nov. 1862-Oct. 1865

Wm. Robertson, Pvt., M, 6th Illinois Cav., 1864-Oct. 1865

Samuel Messer, Pvt., K, 35th Mo. Inf., L863-1865

O.P. Powell, Pvt., no data

John Spraker, Pvt., A, 30th Ill. Inf., Sept. 7, 1861-Sept. 28, 1864

Floyd King, Cpl., E, 14th Ill. Cav., 1861-July 31, 1865

Lemuel Parks, Sgt., 1864-1865

Clements Stabler, Pvt., 1863-1865

Wm. W. Browning, Pvt., H, 11th Ky. Inf., Sept. 1861-July 9, 1862

Henry Mann, Pvt., B, 3rd Ill. Cav., Oct. 27, 1862-Oct. 10, 1864

David Boyles, Ill. Cav., no data

Wm. G. Sparks, Pvt., D, 2nd Mo. Inf., 1862-1865

Louis Dickerson, Pvt., no data

John W. Hodge, Pvt., A, 3rd Ky. Cav., Mar. 1863-May 1865

Wm. H. Diamond, Bugler, D, 2nd Mo. Art., Mar. 1864-1865

KELSO TOWNSHIP

Christopher Meinz, Pvt., B, 50th Mo. Inf., Nov. 1, 1864-Aug. 7, 1865

Charles Hillemann, Pvt., Mo. State Militia, no data

Robert Finley, Pvt., F, 3rd Ill. Art., Aug. 12, 1861-Dec. 14, 1864

John Heisserer, Cpl., C, 2nd Mo. Inf., Sept. 10,1861-Sept. 27, 1864

John Schaefer, Pvt., L, 2nd Ill. Art., 1862-Jan. 3, 1865

Joseph Dumey, Pvt., B, 50th Mo. Inf., Oct. 29, 1864-Aug. 7, 1865

Frank Mirgeaux, Pvt., L, 10th Mo. Cav., May 9, 1864-Sept. 5, 1865

Matthew Rose, Pvt., 18th Mo. Inf., May 5, 1861-Aug. 8, 1864

Jacob Enderle, Pvt., L, other data missing. Sept. 27, 1862-Sept. 19, 1865

Ignatius Logel, Pvt., F, Mo. Inf., Aug. 11, 1862-June 12, 1865

Martin Tuckwell, Pvt., F, Mich. Cav., Sept. 18, 1861-April 18, 1862

Thomas Pierce, no data

Frederick Koch, Pvt., K, 5th Mo. Cav., Dec. 1861-Mar. 5, 1864

John Aug, Pvt., B, 4th Mo. Cav., Sept. 15, 1863-Mar. 30, 1865

[redacted]

Constantine Dohogne, Pvt., D, 4th Mo. Cav., June 1, 1862-Jan. 16, 1865

Frank Weltmore, Pvt., G, 1st Mo. Art., Oct. 28, 1863-June 7, 1866

Adam Burger, Pvt., K, 10th Mo. Cav., Oct. 14, 1862-Sept. 19, 1865

Jesse Pulley, Pvt., no data

Frederick Unnerstall, Pvt., K, Mo. Cav., Sept. 27, 1862-Sept. 19, 1865

SYLVANIA TOWNSHIP

Ward L. Smith, 1864

James Trimble, Pvt., J., 4th Mo. Inf., June 15, 1861-Jan. 25, 1863

John Hays, Pvt., C., Mo. Vol., March 1st, 1864-Dec. 29, 1865

Robt. W. Walker, Pvt., K., 4th Ark. Vol., Nov. 17, 1863-June 30, 1865

David J. Crow, Pvt., J., 37th Ind, Inf., Nov. 10, 1864-Aug. 1o, 1865

Philip Woodruff, Pvt., D., 27th Ky. Inf., Oct. 10, 1861-Mar. 29, 1865

Stephen W. Underwood, Pvt., H., 19th Mo. Vol., Aug. 8, 1862-July 14, 1865

Richard H. McClain, Pvt., J., 11th Ky. Inf., Aug. 19, 1861-Dec. 14, 1864

Henry C. Allmon, Pvt., E., 30th Ill. Inf., Aug. 2, 1861-Jan. 21, 1862

Reubin Smiddy, Sgt., A., 60th Ill. Inf., Feb. 22, 1864-July 31, 1866

MORELAND TOWNSHIP

Adam Burger, Pvt., L., Horn's Mo. Cav., Oct. 14, 1862-May 21, 1865

Francis Gouthier, Pvt., F., 29th Mo. Inf., Aug. 15, 1862-May 21, 1865

Wm. Schlin, Pvt., A., Ill., Cav., 1861-Sept. 21, 1862

Jacob Stehr , Pvt., B. 2nd Mo. Lgt. Art, enlisted April 23, 1861

Marcus Morie, Sgt., B., Mo. Scott Battery, May 8, 1861-Aug. 8, 1861

Lucien Proffit, Sgt., A., 15th Ill. Cav., Aug. 10, 1861-Aug. 25, 1864

Louis Hahn, Pvt., L., 19th Mo. Cav., Aug. 15, 1862-Feb. 9, 1865

Frank Miederhof, no data.

Andrew G. Emmerick, Pvt., no data.

Wm. Whitefield, Pvt., no data

Edward Hasckam, Pvt., Mo. State Militia

Ignatz Diebold, Cpl., F., 29th Mo. Inf., Aug. 15, 1862-June 20, 1865

Francis F. Hawkins, Blacksmith, E., 7th Mich. Cav., 1864-July 22, 1865

Andrew Uelsmann, Pvt., D., 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1864-July 1, 1865

James Humphrey, Pvt., Mo State Mil., 1865, killed Feb. 24, 1865

Henry Bollen, Pvt., Mo. Militia Cav., no data

MORELAND TOWNSHIP--Continued

Philip Westrich, Pvt., A, State Bk. USRC, 1861-Aug. 5, 1861

John Martin, Sgt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Aug. 1, 1864-July 1, 1865

Merlin Robertson, Pvt., R, 29th Mo. Inf., Sept. 27, 1862-June 17, 1865

James M. Congleton, Pvt., E, 15th Ky. Cav., Sept. 16, 1862-Oct. 6, 1863

George Heuring, Pvt., Mo. Militia, no data

Clarence J. Heisserer, Pvt., I, 67th Mo. Militia, 1864-April 1865

John Stike, Pvt., C, 2nd Mo. Inf., Sept. 10, 1861-Sept. 27, 1864

Matthew Kamp, Capt., Mo. State Militia, 1861

Francis Nations, Pvt., Sept. 13, 1863-May 1865

Josiah Helm, Pvt., G, 40th Ill. Inf., Sept. 15, 1862-May 30, 1865

Fritz Sandvos, Cpl., L, 10th Mo. Cav., Sept. 27, 1862-May 25, 1865

Charles Butler, Pvt., F, 5th Mo. Inf., Jan. 23, 1862-May 2, 1865

Gateal Johnson, Pvt., K, 146th Ind. Inf., Feb. 1862-Aug. 31, 1865

Peter Eckley, Pvt., F, 29th Mo. Inf., Sept. 1 1862-June 1865

Jamie Winchester, Pvt., 50th Mo. Inf., Feb. 8, 1864-July 1, 1865

Allen Sanders, Pvt., A, 50th Mo. Inf., 1864-Aug. 5, 1865

Martin Sanders, Pvt., A, 50th Mo. Inf., Nov. 29, 1864-Aug. 5, 1865

Vincent Heisserer, Pvt., E, 18th Ill. Inf., 1861-June 11, 1864

Philip Angle, Pvt., I, 13th Vol., Sept. 3, 1864-May 2, 1865

George Guthrie, Pvt., D, 4th Mo. Cav., Jan. 1862-Jan. 12, 1865

John Powell, Pvt., M, 5th Iowa Cav., Sept. 10, 1861-Oct. 31, 1864

MORLEY TOWNSHIP

Benjamin C. Wilson, Pvt., D., 8th Ill. Inf., Aug. 12, 1862-Aig. 12, 1865

James Johnson, Pvt., I., 21st Ky. Art., Sept. 22, 1863-June 24, 1865

Archan Mispelny, Pvt., B., 49th Ill. Inf., 1861-1865

Wm. H. Black, Pvt., E., 1st Ill. Inf., Aug. 16, 1863-July 15, 1865

John H. Cooper, Capt., 27th Ohio Inf., July 4, 1861-Aug. 13, 1865

Abraham Dotson, Pvt., C., 87th Ill. Art., Aug. 14, 1863-July 3, 1866

John S. Kiefer, Pvt., G., 29th Mo. Inf., Aug. 2, 1862-June 13, 1865

Alex. P. Carter, Cpl., L., 6th Tenn. Cav., July 27, 1862-July 26, 1865

Levi Baker, Pvt., E., 2nd Art., 1863-Mar. 1865

Alex. Welker, Pvt., M., 8th Mo. Cav., 1861-1865

Joseph H. Williams, Pvt., C., 11th Ind. Inf., Nov. 1864-Aug. 1865

Wm. A. Stovall, Pvt., I., 109th Ill. Inf., Aug. 14, 1862-June 17, 1865

George W. Turnat, Pvt., C., 120th Ill. Inf., 1862-Sept. 14, 1865

Absalom May, Cpl., I., 147th Ind. Inf., June 21, 1865-Jan. 21, 1866

ORAN TOWNSHIP

John D. Gillispie, no data

Wm. G. Kayser, no data

Pleasant G. Pribble, no data

Joseph Pobst, Pvt., C., 2nd Mo. Cav., July 1o, 1861-Sept. 10, 1866

Wm. H. Mitchell, no data

Benj. F. Finley, no data

David D. Cordadlin, Pvt., F., 20th Mo. Lgt. Art., Aug. 5, 1861-Dec. 31, 1863

George L. Crawford, Pvt., H., 4th Ohio Cav., Feb. 22, 1864-July 15, 1865

Frank McGraw, Pvt., F., 10th Mo. Volunteers, Jan. 15, 1861-July 20, 1864

Jonathan H. Bryan, Pvt., D., 142nd Ind. Vol., Oct. 5, 1864-July 14, 1865

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

James H. Barnett, Pvt., K, 42nd Ind. Inf., Dept. 10,1861-july 30, 1865

Stephen H. Ward, Pvt., C., 63rd Ind. Inf., April 22, 1862-April 22, 1865

Joseph C. Rice, Pvt., F, 91st Ind. Inf., Aug. 1862-June 27, 1865

Wm. Carpenter, Pvt., D, 50th Mo. Inf., Sept. 2, 1864-July 3, 1865

Wm. Fischer, Cpl., D., 42nd Ind. Inf., Oct. 10, 1861-Oct. 19, 1864

John McKurre, Pvt., B., 1st Mo. Cav., 1861-1865

Frank Maxwell, Pvt. B., 52nd Pa. Inf., Mar. 9, 1864-July 25, 1865

James Bradley, no data.

Samuel Tanner, detached service U.S.

Wm. M. Jeffords, Pvt., B., 50th Mo. Inf., July 1864-july 1865

John Kinsey, Pvt., I., 149th Ill. Inf., no data.

Benjamin Thompson, Cpl., F., 2nd Tenn. Cav., Aug. 1, 1862-July 15, 1865

James S. Lewis, Pvt., C., 1st Neb. Inf. no data.

Absolem Harrison, Pvt., D., 4th Ky. Cav., Oct. 19, 1861-Sept. 3, 1862

Thomas B. Scarbrough, Pvt., K., 1st Wis. Cav., Aug. 21, 1862-Nov. 1863

Andrew Baker, Pvt., C., 12th Ky. Inf., Oct. 1861-June 5, 1862

John B. Evans, no data.

Nathaniel Arnold, Pvt., D., 12th Ky Cav., Aug. 23, 1862-Aug. 23, 1865

James L. Crow, Sgt., 31st Ill. Inf., May 13, 1862-Nov. 1863

Daniel Archer, Pvt., D., 50th Mo. Inf., 1864-1865

Christopher Hollingsworth, Pvt., G., 26th Ohio Inf., Apr. 15, 1861-Oct. 27, 1865

James Simpson, Pvt., A., 60th Ill. Inf., 1861-1864

Wm. Denton, Pvt., F., 2nd Tenn. Inf. 1863-1864

George C. Reed, Pvt., D., 143rd Ind., July 8, 1865-Oct. 7, 1865

James M. Chadd, Pvt., B., 2nd Ky. Art., Oct. 1861-1866

George W. Scott, Pvt., no data

Jeremiah Hardin, Pvt., K., 10th Mich. Inf., 1862-Oct. 18, 1866

James T. Williams, Pvt., B., 4th Ill. Inf., June 5, 1861-July 23, 1864

John G. Bell, Pvt., B., 18th Ill. Inf., 1862-1865

ALDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNION ARMY SOLDIERS

In some cases these men have been mentioned, but with fewer details than in the following list.

Joseph Glastetter, born Aug. 15, 1826, Baden, Germany. Private in Company B, Mo. Infantry Battalion of Home Guard, under command of Capt. Constantine Grojean. Enrolled May 4, 1861. Prisoner of war for three weeks by Rebels under Gen. Jeff Thompson. Discharged Aug. 5, 1861. Widow Louisa Glause.

Fredolin Glastetter, born March 6, 1824, Baden, Germany. Enlisted Dec. 12, 1861 Cape Girardeau, Mo., Private and artificier (one who prepares the shells, fuses, etc.) in Battery F, 2nd Ill. Light Artillery. Discharged Dec. 14, 1864 at Springfield, Ill.

Dionysius (Denis) Diebold, born Mar. 7, 1820. Private Co. C, Scott County Home Guard May, 1861 to Aug. 1861. Enlisted as private in Co. L, 10th Regiment Mo. Cavalry Oct. 2, 1862. Discharged Sept. 19, 1865 at Nashville, Tenn. Served under Capt. Robert H. Ruhle. Enlistment data: 5 ft. 8 in. tall, dark complexion, brown hair and eyes.

Joseph Paul Dumey, born Dec. 25, 1844 in France. Enrolled Oct. 29, 1864 at Cape Girardeau as a private in Co. B, 50th Regiment Mo. Volunteers. Farmer, 5 ft. 6 in. tall, dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair. Discharged Aug. 7, 1865. Widow Magdalena Diebold. Acquired lung problems, probably tuberculosis, while in the army. Died 1879 of this malady.

Johannes (John) Blattel, private Co. A, 2nd Reg. Mo. Volunteer Light Artillery. Born Nassau, Germany, Dec. 24, 1844. Enrolled Jan. 24, 1844 at Cape Girardeau. Served under Capt. Albert Workman. Discharged Aug. 24, 1865 at St. Louis. Data: 5 ft. 2 in. tall, light comp., blue eyes, light hair.

Constantine Dohogne, born July 28, 1842 near Francorschamp, Liege, Belgium. Enrolled Jan. 1, 1862 at St. Louis, Mo., as private in Co. D, 4th Reg. of Mo. Volunteer Cavalry, and later in 5th Regiment. Losses in these units

were such that they were combined into one unit, which was dubbed Co. D., ~~the~~ 4th Mo. Cavalry.

At age 14 Mr. Dohogne rode a Southeastern Missouri version of the pony express, carrying the mail horseback between here and New Madrid. This was in 1856, four years before the famed St. Joseph, Mo., to San Francisco Pony Express was inaugerated.

John Heisserer, born Dec. 21, 1839 at Schirrhein, Alsace, France. Enrolled Sept. 10, 1861 at St. Louis as a private in Co. C, 2nd Reg. Mo. Volunteer Infantry. Promoted to Corporal in June of 1863. Mustered out Sept. 27, 1864 at St. Louis. Data: 5 ft. 7 in., fair comp., blue eyes and brown hair.

Ignatz Diebold, born Aug. 3, 1838 at Canton, Ohio. Enrolled Aug. 15, 1862 at Cape Girardeau as volunteer in Co. F, 29th Reg. Mo. Infantry. Served as Corporal under Capt. Christian Burkhardt. Discharged June 20, 1865 at Washington, D.C. Data: 5 ft. 9 in., fair comp., brown eyes and hair.

George Blattel, born Mar. 19, 1817 in Nassau, Germany. Mr. Blattel, a farmer, enrolled May 1, 1861 in Co. C, Scott County Home Guard. Unit disbanded at Cape Girardeau Aug. 5, 1861.

Joseph Dannenmueller, enlisted as private in Co. B, Mo. Home Guard May 4, 1861. Served until Aug. 5, 1861

Joseph Hahn enlisted in 1861 at Kansas City, Mo. Died June 5, 1862.

Joseph Justene Dumey, born Aug. 7, 1837 at Erock, Belgium. Enlisted Aug. 15, 1862 as private in Co. F, 29th Reg. Mo. Vol. Infantry. Served under Capt. Christian Burkhardt. Discharged Washington, D.C. June 19, 1865. Data: Farmer, 5 ft. 5 in. tall, dark comp., brown eyes and black hair.

William Jehlen, born Feb. 16, 1842. Enlisted as private in Co. F, 2nd Ill. Lght. Art. Dec. 20, 1861. Wounded in head and shoulder. Discharged July 27, 1865.

John Martin Diebold, born Sept. 4, 1834 at Canton, Ohio. Enrolled Aug. 15, 1862 at Cape Girardeau as a private in Co. F, 29th Reg. Mo. Vol. Infantry under Capt. Christ. Burkhardt. Wounded in the leg at battle of Chickasaw Bluffs, near Vicksburg, Miss., moved to Jefferson Barracks Hospital, developed blood poisoning, and died there on Feb. 11, 1863. Buried in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Michael Enderle, private Mo. ~~S~~ State Militia. No discharge located.

Frederick Musbach, private Co. K, Mo. Horse Cavalry. Served Oct. 16, 1862 to Sept. 19, 1865.

Clemens Heuring, private, Co. F, 67th Mo. Militia, Sept. 1864 to April 1865.

Constantine Grojean, born France, 1817. Captain of Co. E, 79th Mo. Vol. Regiment.

Frank Joseph Seyer, born June 14, 1825 Alsace, France, private, Co. C, Mo. Home Guard, May 5, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861.

It might be well, before passing on to other matters, to offer a word of explanation as to why a 14-year-old boy, such as Constantine Dohogne, was employed to carry the mail.

The transporting of the mail at that time was farmed out to contractors, who, quite naturally, were desirous of having each of their horses carry the maximum possible load of mail. One way to do this was to decrease the weight of the rider by employing a small man or a boy to do the riding. If, for example, they employed a 125-pound man or boy, instead of a 175-pound man, they would add 50 pounds to the horse's carrying capacity.

That is why, at a later date, Russell, Majors & Waddell hired William F. Cody, though then only 14 years old, to ride a 35-mile segment of the St. Joseph to San Francisco Pony Express run.

The discharge papers of John Bliss, private, Capt. James Towmer's Co. (B), 2nd Reg. of Veteran Reserve Corps Volunteers, show that he enlisted Aug. 24, 1862, and was discharged at Detroit July 5, 1865, at the age of 40. He was born in Wissenburg, France. He was 5 ft. 7 in. tall, fair comp., blue eyes and brown hair. His occupation, carpenter.

AN INTERESTING AFFIDAVIT

An affidavit made about the year 1889 by Michael Gosche and Charles Vetter, "in the matter of Anna M. Blattel, late Pensioner of Certificate No. 307 807," throws light on the organization of the Home Guard unit at New Hamburg. It reads, in part, as follows:

"That in the spring of 1861 George Blattel, about the latter part of April or first of May 1861, as soon as the Loyal Men of New Hamburg received the news of President Lincoln's first call, we began to organize, and George Blattel, the husband of Anna M. Blattel enlisted at the same time with us for the Defense of our county and we were sworn into the Military Service of the United States for a term of three months, and Companies A, B, C, and D were then organized. George Blattel belonged to Company C, and we know that he served honorably with us from May 1, 1861 to Aug. 5, 1861. We were with him when Camp Jackson at St. Louis fell. The Rebels then under Watkins and Pillow and Jeff Thompson were then at Sikeston and in Benton, and it was reasonable to believe that if we had left our arms and camp said Rebels would have captured us. George Blattel was with our command until disbanded at Cape Girardeau. When we arrived at Cape Girardeau, we found the 20th Regiment of Illinois Infantry there, and we remained there until the 5th day of August when we were disbanded. At the time in 1862 when we received our pay from Attorney Wilson at Cape Girardeau for part of our service, we were told that we would, at that time, receive payment for six weeks and that we would receive the balance at a later date."

No further payments seem to have been made to these men, nor do they appear to have been given discharge papers, for part of the purpose of this affidavit was to obtain these papers. As a consequence, on July 18, 1890 George Blattel's widow was officially notified that he had been discharged from the Home Guards on Aug. 5, 1861, 21 years after the fact.

SCOTT COUNTY MEN WHO SERVED IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

Thomas H. Horrell, Pvt., A, unit unlisted, 1861-1864

Logan Kemp, Pvt., no data, 1863-1865

James H. Adams, Pvt., no data

Caldwell Pool, Pvt., B, 3rd Ky. Inf., May 1864-April 1865

Stephen Peal, Pvt., A, 7th N. Car. Inf., May 21, 1861-April 1865

Calvin Curtis, Pvt., A, 7th Ky. Inf., Aug. 1861-May 1865

A.J. Pigg, no data

James Stubbs, Sgt., no data

Sidney Richmond, 2nd Lieut., C, 6th Mo. Inf., July 3, 1861-April 1865

Elijah Oller, Pvt., D, 6th Mo. Inf., April 1862-May 1865

Wm. Mann, Pvt., C, 12th Tenn. Cav., Jan. 12, 1863-Oct. 12, 1863

Wm. Marrs, 2nd Lieut., G, Kitchen's unit Mo. Cav., Apr. 1863-June 16, 1865

Arthur N. Stevens, in service 4 years.

Albert Horton, Lieut., A, 13th Ark. Inf., Oct. 1, 1862-Sept. 15, 1864

John F. Randol, Cpl., Aug. 10, 1862-Sept. 10, 1862

Jacob Row, Pvt., A, 8th Mo. Cav., April 1, 1863-May 16, 1865

Allan Williams, Pvt., Thompson's command, Aug. 1, 1861-Feb. 1, 1862

Charles G. Owens, Capt., Thompson's coomand, May 10, 1861-May 1, 1865

James A. Kirkpatrick, Pvt., A, Mo. Cav., Sept. 23, 1863-May 25, 1865

Samuel Kirkpatrick, 1861-1865

James N. Malone, Pvt., G, 5th Tenn. Inf., Aug. 15, 1861-Aug. 15, 1864

Archibald Lane, Lieut., A, Thompson's, 1861-Jan. 12, 1862

Monroe Pilcher, Lieut., A, 8th Mo. Cav., May 25, 1861-June 30, 1864

Wm. A. Darby, drummer, June 1861-Dec. 1861

Truck James, 1861-1864

Tony Williams, Pvt., no data

John Johnson, Pvt., no data

Joseph Ware, Pvt., Aug. 1861-Feb. 1862

CONFEDERATE CONTINUED

Joseph B. Burton, Pvt., 4th Cav., Aug. 1862-May 10, 1863

Allen Shuberry, Pvt., June 18, 1861-Oct. 1, 1862

James H. Thorton, Pvt., Jan. 1864-Feb. 1864

Leonida Nutt, Pvt., B, 17th Tenn. Vol., Dec. 22, 1862-June 29, 1865

Royal Thomas, Pvt., C, Ark. unit, July 1864-Dec. 1866

James M. Willis, Pvt., 4 months in 1863

John R. Dupree, Pvt., H, 131st Ill. Inf., Aug. 1862-Sept. 1862

James W. Crafton, Pvt., B, Tenn. Inf., Feb. 23, 1861-May 1865

James Shepneau, Pvt., no data

John Parker, Pvt., A, 40th Ark. Inf., March 1861-Oct. 1861

Thomas J. Ellis, Pvt., C, 6th Mo. Cav., July 1861-Jan. 1865

Richard W. Morgan, Pvt., A, 2nd La. Inf., May 1861-Sept. 1865

A. Reddick, Sgt., A, 1st Tenn. Inf., Oct. 1861-Aug. 1862

Frank Chesser, Pvt., 1864-1865

W.G.B. Stubblefield, Lieut., D, Wood's Battery, 1861-May 1865

W.J. Burford, Pvt., A, 21st Ark. Inf., Sept. 1861-Sept. 2, 1863

William B. Congleton, no data.

J.E. Anderson, Capt., D, 2nd Mo. Cav., April 1861-Aug. 1866

Henderson Cantrell, Pvt., 6 months in 1862

John Tippy, Pvt., F, 7th Ky. Inf., 1861-1864

SPECIAL SCOTT COUNTY CONFEDERATE UNITS

Company C, Scott County Rangers:

J.E.D. Woods and H.F. Smith, captains; J.O. Hinton, W.E. McGuire, Milton Bowman, 1st Lieuts.; D.H. Leedy, J.F. Edwards, John French, 2nd Lieuts.; J.B. Wheeler, James M. Hill and I.F. Allen, 3rd lieutenants.

SERGEANTS: Jackson H. Randol, James H. Ancell and Charles Fitzpatrick.

CORPORALS: Aven Hall, Jesse M. Bressyeals and Willie Atchinson.

PRIVATES: Berry Winton, James Yask, Barry Black, James Anderson, Hezekiah Bryant, Thos. Blum, Elisha Bryant, James Cooper, George Butter, Thos. Bushy, Charles G. Crow, George Curley, Harry DeJournett, Jas. Duncan, Wm. Dunlap, Elisha Green, John Eller, Henry Hager, Benj. Hall, Wm. Hager, Alex. Hornbeck, Wm. Harmon, Matthew King, Joseph Isbel, Wm. M. Land, Wm. Lard, James Lane, Thos. McConnell, Cullen McLane, W.S. Miller, Wm. A. Norman, Columbus Norman, Robert L. Powell, Richard Overton, James Rasberry, Wm. Reed, James Richards, Austin Riggin, Thos. Richards, Thos. Riggin, Henry Robinson, Simeon Smith, Cannard Sayers, Job Upchurch, Marshal Wiley, Henderson Wiley, James Snider, Charles Waths, and John Winters.

Company C was organized out of two companies enlisted on June 8 and June 22, 1861

COMPANY D, Scott County, Organized June 25, 1861

Ben Hunter, captain; 1st Lieut. A. Wright; 2nd lieutenants T.D. Harbison, Claiborne Reeder and S. Boutwell. 3rd lieutenants J. Doherty, W.C. Stubblefield, Charles Chaney. Sergeants J.E. Miller, John Bridges and W.P. Power. Corporals T.J. Davis, Thos. Cason, Ezra Harrison and Joseph Morrison.

PRIVATES: J.R. Watson, James Weatherford, J.C. Wilson, W.O. Winchester, F.G. Winfrey, E.W. Ashley, James H. Bell, L.M. Bohn, Thos. Bridges,

SPECIAL SCOTT COUNTY CONFEDERATE UNITS--Continued

J.C. Calhoun, Christian Butso, E.A. Craig, Joseph Curtis, Thos. Hardy, Henry Hughes, Thos. Mason, Sam Marshall, G.B. Mars, J.J. Jones, I.T. McCain, James Merritt, J.D. Morgan, John Morgan, L.B. Morgan, Levi C. Neely, M.V. Norman, John Saunders, James Sevetty, James Shay, Allen Shinberg, D.W. Smith, Thos. Stubbs, Charles Snider, John Tollman, Michael Toney, John Ward and Henry Watson.

COMPANY F, organized Sept. 11, 1861:

John A. Hunter, captain; R.H. Ravenscroft, 1st lieutenant; 2nd Lieut. John L. Martin: 3rd Lieut. J.J. Johnson.

Zachariah Hayden and Joel C. Lewis, sergeants; John S. Kife, Thos. H. Lewis, A.W. Dumming and A.B. Harrison, corporals.

PRIVATES: Willie Potite, J.T. Waugh, Enoch Thompson, John Ashley, Ben. L. Barnes, Isaac Brown, L.S. Chatman, Newton Cantwell, W.P. Darley, A. Culbertson, John W. Hamilton, Reuben Hayden, Wm. Humes, James Lewis, W.P. Mars, James Martin, Thos. L. Martin, Henry B. Myers, Alex. Myers, James Myers and Harry Oake.

W.P. Darley was the unit's drummer and Thos. L. Martin its wagonmaster.

These lists, especially as to the Confederate soldiers, are incomplete, but are about the best we can do under existing circumstances. Even so, they should prove useful and interesting, as they show something of the drain on the county's manpower at a time when the county's population total was only 5,247, a figure that included women and children and 503 slaves.

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NAMES OF A FEW ADDITIONAL VETERANS COPIED FROM

TOMBSTONES IN SCOTT COUNTY CEMETERIES

William Constance, Company D, 50th Missouri Infantry, no dates

August Dick, Sergeant, Company I, 17th Missouri Infantry. Born Aug. 26, 1826. Died Dec. 21, 1882.

Christian Wilhelm Dunger, Co. I, 29th Mo. Inf. Born Dec. 18, 1820. Died Jan. 4, 1879.

James H. Fletcher, Colonel in the Confederate Army, no dates.

William R. Gilliam, Captain, Co. H, 70th U.S.C. Infantry, no dates.

CHARLES Harris, Co. B, 80th Illinois Infantry. Born Aug. 3, 1852? Died Oct. 10, 1882.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

BURIED IN SCOTT COUNTY.

William Allen, born 1760. Died 1840, and was buried in Benton City Cemetery.

Charles Friend, Captain, 1718-1814. Born in Wales, a Principality of Great Britain. Came from Monongahela County, Va., to Scott Co., Mo., in 1799, and settled on a Spanish Land Grant (Survey 638) located just south of the present site of Benton. Buried in Friend's Cemetery [redacted] east of Oran.

Thomas Waters, Major, 1763-1806, doubtless was buried in or near the present town of Commerce, but the site of his grave is now unknown.

Joseph Hunter, died Dec., 1823, at the age of 63, and was buried in the old Hunter Cemetery, Sikeston.

David Trotter, died 1802. Buried in City Cemetery, Sikeston.

Daniel Kenny. No further information.

Major James Smith Mansfield, War of 1812, born Jan. 14, 1786 and died Sept. 18, 1868. Buried in the Ross or Zion Cemetery, also known as "Old Briarfield," at the southern edge of Scott City.

Mrs. Mary Lou Lett, of Cape Girardeau, has kindly supplied copies of government records showing that James Smith Mansfield enlisted Sept. 24, 1813, as second sergeant in Capt. John Harpole's company of Mounted Riflemen, which made up a part of Col. Newton Cannon's 2nd Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Militia.

Mansfield served in the Creek War and was at the battles of Tallushatches, Nov. 3, 1813, and Talladega, Nov. 9, 1813. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 7, 1814, after having served 14 days over the 3 months' term for which he had enlisted.

His pay per month during his period of service was $11, plus an allowance of 40¢ a day for his horse, and a "traveling allowance for forage and rations before muster and after discharge," of 25¢ per day. His total pay for the 106 days he was in service, including the allowances, was $83.94, or about 71¢ per day.

Historians tell us that Cannon's regiment left Ft. Strothers on Dec. 31, 1813, much against Gen. Jackson's wishes, although Governor Blount had advised Jackson to release them at the end of their term of enlistment. Nevertheless, Jackson flew into one of his towering rages, and as the

the soldiers departed, wished that each and every one of them had "a smok-tail in his teeth, with a petticoat as a coat of mail to hand down to posterity."

His wish, however, was not to be granted, for the discharged men went their various ways, and Col. Cannon, in time, became Tennessee's tenth governor.

Mansfield married Mary A. Gillam March 9, 1818, when she was 18, and he 35. Ten years after his death she was granted a War of 1812 widow's pension of $8 per month.

Old Briarfield or Zion cemetery also has another War of 1812 veteran buried in it. John McKinley, born in Virginia in 1800, served in the War of 1812 as a drummer boy, although he was only twelve years old at the time he joined the army. He came to Missouri in 1830. Two of his sons, William and Benjamin, became prominent in the affairs of Commerce, the latter as a merchant for many years in that town.

John McKinley died Sept. 6, 1863 and was buried in Old Briarfield Cemetery. (McKinley's tombstone is only 21 feet away from Mansfield's.)

Several of his descendants still reside in this area; among them being Mr. Lemuel S. Bollinger, of Scott City, who supplied most of the above information.

Robert Joyce, born Sept. 30, 1812, died May 9, 1883, and several members of the Williams family, including Moreau Williams, are also buried in Old Briarfield. They were slave owners, and their slaves are said to have been buried in the southeast corner of this cemetery. There are no commercial monuments there, only a few rocks, such as

Mrs. Fred Lasater, of Sikeston, has supplied the War of 1812 military record of her ancestor, James Trotter. Private Trotter enlisted Oct. 30, 1812. His unit, the 6th company of the 5th regiment of mounted riflemen, Territorial Militia, was under the command of Captain Samuel Philips. Robert Trotter, an ensign, was enrolled in this company, too.

James Trotter served until Dec. 2, 1812. The company payroll shows that his pay per month, while with the militia, was $6.66, plus a 40 cents per day allowance for his horse.

James Trotter was buried in the Sikeston City Cemetery. His tombstone indicates that he died Jan. 16, 1823, at the age of 44.

Houck, in his "History of Missouri" (Footnote 87, page 164, Vol. II), states that James Trotter was killed by "Mascoux Indians" in 1802. Douglass, in his "History of SE. Missouri" (Vol. I, page 115), however, straightens out the matter, by telling us that it was David, not James Trotter, who was killed in 1802 by a band of "Creek" Indians, "engaged in thieving and plundering on both sides of the Mississippi."

The Trotters, according to Houck, came to Missouri about 1801, and settled in the Tywappity bottom area near Marais des Peches (Fish Lake). James, at a later date, was in the Sikeston area; in fact, Sikes' 1860 plat of the town of Sikeston shows that the Trotter heirs still owned a triangular sliver of land in the southwest corner of the new town.

COUNTY SLAVE STATISTICS FROM
SCOTT COUNTY TAX ASSESSMENT BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1861

(Records for all prior years were destroyed during the Civil War)

Slave Owners	Nummbers owned	Assessed Value	
Felix G. Allen estate	3	$2,000	
Benjamin F. Allen	4	$2,000	
Albert B. Allen	3	$2,000	
J.F. & T. Allen	6	$4,000	
Washington C. Ancell	9	$4,000	(The Ancells came to Missouri in the period 1830-1835 and settled on or near the present site of Scott City. All of those listed were brothers, except Leander, who was a son of John H. The Ancells, as a family, were the largest slave owners in the county, their total holdings amounting to 56 slaves with an assessed value of $26,700.)
Thornton W. Ancell	6	$4,000	
John H. Ancell	12	$5,000	
James B. Ancell	8	$3,500	
Henry Ancell	11	$4,500	
Paschal Ancell	7	$4,000	
Leander Ancell	3	$1,700	
Benjamin Benefield	16	$4,000	
Joseph P. Bridwell	4	$1,200	
Marion Byrne	1	$800	
William Burgess	1	$750	Burgess had a store in Commerce
Albion Crow	10	$4,700	
Phoebe Cox	2	$800	
Baldwin Cox	3	$1,000	
John G. Cox	1	$300	
Ebenezer E. Craig	1	$600	
Tennessee Cooper	1	$500	
Levi D. Chaney	2	$600	
Wm. W. Campbell	1	$500	
John W. Daugherty	1	$500	
Wason V. Daniel	2	$1,300	
William P. Darnes	4	$2,000	

Slave Owners	Numbers owned	Value
Rawley E. Evans	4 slaves	$1,600
Albert G. English	9 slaves	$4,500
Benjamin H. Ellis	1	$800
James J. Ellis	2	$900
Emily Ellis	2	$900
Harriet Ellis	2	$800
Nelson Ellis	2	$1,500
Cyrus Eversol	1	$500
Asa Foster	4	$1,600
John Friend, Sr.	1	$800
George W. Fricke	3	$1,000
Alexander P. Goddard	5	$1,500
Levi S. Green	3	$2,900
Henry G. Gist	9	$5,300
Archie A. Griffith	1	$200
William Griffith	13	$6,000
Benjamin B. Gaither	3	$1,500
David S. Gaither	1	$500
Benjamin F. Hunter	9	$3,500
Joseph Hunter	10	$6,400
Zulema Hinkle	1	$700
Albert Hughes	6	$2,500
Alex. S. Henderson	5	$1,700
Maria Harbison	7	$2,500
George Harned	7	$3,000
William Hutson	4	$2,500
Edward Hooe	3	$2,000

Slave Owners	Numbers Owned	Assessed Value
Rebecca Hall	1 slave	$300
Robert Joyce	1	$700
Edward Joyce	1	$500
Reddick Jones	1	$250
Mosby Johnson	6	$2,800
Washington Jones	6	$1,800
Edward B. Kelso	7	$3,500
Archibald P. Lane	6	$2,800
Leonard T. Lee	4	$2,200
Ephraim Lenley	1	$900
Joseph H. Moore	7	$2,100
Wm. H. Miller estate	1	$1,000
Wm. Myers	1	$400
Charles Z. Moore	4	$1,600
James McMullen	1	$800
Elizabeth Montgomery	4	$1,400
Catherine Myers	3	$1,400
Uriah Montgomery	2	$1,500
Benjamin Penn	1	$500
Martha Parrott	1	$500
James Parrott	12	$5,600
Parrott & Crow	3	$1,500
Beverly & John Parrott	6	$2,000
William Prince	1	$500
Archibald Price	6	$3,600
John H. Ranney	1	$700

Cyrus Eversol (Mill owner, Commerce, and husband of Sarah Eversol)

Slave Owners	Numbers Owned	Assessed Value	
Lafayette Ringo estate	3	$1,050	
James H. Ross	1	$350	
James F. Ross estate	28	$10,000	
Thomas G. Rhodes estate	1	$800	
Thomas N. Ranney	8	$4,500	
John Sikes	14	$5,600	(founder of Sikeston)
William E. Sledd	1	$500	
Benj. F. Sillman	2	$600	
Mary J. Shaw	2	$1,000	
James Trotter estate	5	$1,600	
John Turner, Sr.	3	$750	
Mary Vaughan	6	$1,800	
Ithmar Williams	1	$900	
Emilia, Chas., Moreau, and Mary Williams	3	$1,400	
C.P. Wilborn estate	4	$2,000	
Madison Williams	3	$1,000	
Milford Wylie	2	$900	
NATHANIEL WATKINS	42	$30,000	
Oscar H. Watts	1	$800	

Total number of slaves assessed, 455, as compared to 503 in 1860. Ninty-eight of the county's 940 families owned slaves in 1861, for an average of better than one in ten.

Those owning ten or more slaves were Nathaniel Watkins (42), John Sikes (14), James F. Ross estate (28), James Parrott (12), Joseph Hunter (10), William Griffiths (13), Albion Crow (10), Benjamin Benefield (16), Henry Ancell (11), and John D. Ancell (12).

Nathaniel Watkins, however, was by far the county's largest slave holder. Apparently he kept them on his Scott County farms under the supervision of overseers, since we know that he and his family were residing in Jackson in 1861.

NATHANIEL W. WATKINS

Brigadier-General Nathaniel W. Watkins was born Jan. 28, 1796, in Woodford County, Kentucky. He was the son of Captain Henry Watkins and Elizabeth Clay Watkins. Mrs. Watkins was a widow at the time of her marriage to Henry Watkins. Her first husband was the Rev. John Clay. They had one child, Henry Clay, who, as most of us know, grew up to become a famous Whig political leader and orator. Also, it is said, drank more whiskey than was good for him.

But be that as it may, Nathaniel W. Watkins, the subject of this sketch, grew up and studied law at Transylvania College, and on completion of his studies there, came (1819) to Jackson, Mo., to practice his profession. Which he did quite successfully. He also held a number of elective offices, including the Missouri House of Representatives, where he served as a member in 1834, 1846 and 1850. During the latter year he was chosen Speaker of the House. In 1856 he was elected to the Missouri State Senate, and in 1875 served as vice president of the Missouri Consitutional Convention then meeting in Jefferson City to write a state constitution to replace the punitive and biased Drake Constitution of 1866.

The General also helped to organize the Southeast Missouri District Agricultural Society in 1855, and served as president of this orgaination during its first year, at which time the first of the long continuing series of district fairs was held at Cape Girardeau. A fairground was purchased at Cape and buildings erected on it. These were occupied by Union troops during the war.

Most of the General's biographers indicate that he moved to Beechlands, his Scott County home, immediately after his [illegible] home in Jackson was burned by Union soldiers. However, the biography in the "Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri," 1901,

states that "After the war he returned to Missouri and located in Scott County," and I am inclined to believe that this information is correct; that he did leave Missouri for a time, before returning and settling in Scott County. For one thing, his family continued to buy household supplies from Welling & Priest's store in Jackson until July 11, 1866. Also, the item in the June 12, 1869 issue of the Commerce Dispatch indicates that the editor had not seen nor talked to him since the war, which would not have been the case, if he had been trying cases at the courthouse in Commerce, or ~~wherewise~~ transacting legal business of any nature there.

The General was 65 years old when the Civil War began, and hence it is not surprising that he soon resigned his 1861 appointment as a Brigadier-General in the Missouri State Guards.

The General's children were Nathaniel W. Watkins, Jr.; John C., Henry Clay, Washington E., Richard J., William B., Amanda and Elizabeth.

The Watkins home north of Morley was a large two story structure, surrounded by grounds featuring a handsome flower garden and a large magnolia tree, then a great rarity in that region.

The General died March 20, 1876, according to the "Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri," at Cape Girardeau. But that was not so, as will become clear when we examine the medical bill submitted by Dr. C.C. Harris, then a physician at Morley, who treated him during his final illness.

The General's wife, Eliza B., was a daughter of Goah Watson, of New Madrid. She died March 23, 1878, and both she and the General are buried in the family cemetery near the site of their Beechland home, which, incidentally, burned sometime during the year 1878.

FROM THE ESTATE PAPERS of GENERAL NATHANIEL WATKINS

General Watkins lived only eleven years after the end of the Civil War, and as a consequence, although he appears to have had a fair income during the latter part of that 11-year period, he was never able to entirely recover from the severe losses he sustained during that terrible conflict.

One of the results of this was that he still owed Walling & Priest, a mercantile firm at Jackson, $598.28 for merchandise bought and services rendered during the period 1853 to 1868.

In order to collect this debt from Watkins' estate, Walling & Priest had to submit an itemized list of everything General Watkins had bought from them during that extended period. And since their store was of the general Merchandise variety, also apparently Watkins' principal supplier, the list covers twenty-five pages of legal-sized paper. The date of purchase, the name of the item purchased, its retail cost and who the General or his wife sent to the store to get it, are all duly recorded in this document.

It is therefore, in my opinion, a valuable and important document, in that it shows the retail prices of merchandise in that region at that time; but more importantly still, it shows in detail what the family of a prosperous Southern planter and attorney needed in the way of fabrics, clothing, food, hardware, etc., etc.

Because of its great length, it is impossible to include the entire bill, and as many of the staple items were purchased over and over again, it would not be desirable to do so anyway. Hence, what follows is a sort of digest or abstract of this document.

First, those listed as making the purchases were Dick, Wash, John, Nat., Will and Henry, sons of General Watkins. Amanda, his daughter, also

made purchases; as did the General himself and his wife. Others listed were Tom (probably the General's nephew), Slack, Miss Waller, Hatcher, Mr. Ervin, Mrs. Daugherty, Jo Burns and Miss Connelly. Then there were a few purchases simply listed as being made by lady, girl, boy, and servant, people apparently unknown to the Walling & Priest staff.

One curious listing in this bill was the purchase, on Oct. 30, 1858, of a 25¢ plug of tobacco, then no more until April 22, 1859, when a series of purchases began, until, by May 5, 1860, a total of 74 plugs had been purchased. Then these purchases ceased, until July 6, 1861, when "lady" bought a final plug. Other purchases had been made by various members of the family, including, on a few occasions, the General himself.

A really amazing feature of this bill, or so it seems to us today, is the quantity and variety of fabrics purchased and presumably worked up and used by the Watkins family.

Among these purchases, in the period 1853 to 1856, were Irish linen, lots of flannel, Holland, cassimere, black Silesia, domestic, canvas, silk serge, drill, gingham, linen drill, muslin, velvet, oil calico, calico, bombazine, sheeting, lawn, doeskin, denim, silk velvet, tweed, cambric, delaine, pants linen, jacconet,

alpaca, sleeve lining, cassionet, satinett, nansook, English calico, Linsey, Swiss, merino, chintz, silk mohair, Scotch plaid, worsted, osnaberg, and a few that I could not identify nor find mentioned in any reference book.

With these, of course, there were purchased, too, of thread, needles, hooks and eyes, cotton wadding, patterns, buttons, buckles, etc., etc.

First purchases, probably indicating when they first became available in this region, were: for "coal oil,"1860; 1 gallon 85¢; 1 box of matches, May 25, 1866, 10¢; envelopes, 1861, 10¢, and a lamp chimney, 1860, 15¢, corroborating the coal oil purchase date as the time when the coal oil or kerosene lamp was first used by the Watkins family.

Other items of interest in this bill are as follows:

1853---- 1 bushel of meal, 40¢
1 hat (for Dick), 50¢
1 boy's tweed coat, $3.50
man's silk hat, $4
Shoes for Jim, $1.50
satin vest, $4.50
1 pair of calf boots, $5.
1 pocket knife, $2
summer coat, $4.50
1 ham, 11½ lbs., 12½¢ per lb. $1.44
6 towels, $1.50
1 silk scarf, $3.
1 broom, 25¢
5 lbs. of butter, $1.
3 dozen eggs, 25¢
1 pair ladies gaiters, $1.85
1 pair kid gloves, 90¢
2 dozen whalebones, 40¢
(numerous purchases, for corsets)
cloth coat, $16.
5 lbs. of crushed sugar, $1.
10 lbs. loaf sugar, $1.50
1 silk cravat, $1.50
1 Panama hat, $2.
1 umbrella, 90¢
1 pair silk mitts, $1.
1 bottle of shoe "blacking," 10¢
1 fine comb, 30¢
2 pair ladies slippers, $1.50 & $1.30
4 coat hooks, 25¢ (used in place of coat hangers)
powder and shot, 15¢
1 box of caps, 10¢
wadding, 10¢
1856---1 mohair head dress, $1.75 (wife)
2 shirt bosoms, $1.
1 boy's cap, $1.25
1 pair boy's boots, $1.85
1 bar toilet soap, 20¢
1 bottle Jayne's Hair Tonic, $1.
(Several bought. Was the General getting bald?)
2 undershirts, $3 (Many purchases at about this price. Were these silk or some other costly fabric?
1 pair men's black silk gloves, 90¢

6 dozen eggs, 90¢
¼ lb. of pepper, 10¢
2 pairs of silk hose, $2.50
5 lbs. of raisins, 90¢
1 meat cutter, $4.25
1 coffee pot, 50¢
40 lbs. of salt, 60¢
¼ lb. of tea, 25¢
1857----- 1 shawl, $7.
7 lbs. of whiting, 35¢
2 packages of garden seed, 10¢
1 pair men's shoes, $1.90
3½ lbs. of coffee, 50¢
2 gallons of linseed oil, $3.
4 cradles & scythes, $14.
1 briar scythe, $1.15
1 necktie, 75¢
1 pair calf boots, $6.
2½ yards of jeans material, $1.50
1 bottle of Jayne's Expectorant, $1.
(several purchases. Evidently a favorite cold & cough remedy with the Watkins.)
1 wool hat, $1.75
2½ yards pants stuff, $2.50
1 pair socks, 20¢
1858--- 339 lbs. slab iron & 41 lbs. bar iron, $18.61
23 lbs. cast steel & 39 lbs. spring steel, $10.41
(several purchases of this description)
5 lbs. of red lead, 63¢
1 horse rasp, 90¢
1 slate (son), 20¢
1 long handled shovel, 85¢
7 Brilliants (probably dye) $3.50
3 shirt collars, 73¢
4 yards of calico, 50¢
1 hoop skirt, $3.75
(first of several)
3 dozen pearl buttons, 25¢
1 pencil, 5¢
2 spools of thread, 10¢
1 lb. starch, 10¢
1 axe handle, 10¢
1 pair ladies silk hose, 90¢
1 saddle blanket, $1.35
2 lbs. of currants, 40¢
1859-- 8 yards of coat binding, 50¢
8 yards pant's trimming, 50¢
1 pocket knife, 50¢
1 pair cotton socks, 25¢
2 dozen eggs, 25¢
1 bushel of meal, 75¢
1 padlock, 25¢
1 carpet bag, $2.
1 tin bucket, 25¢
2 sad irons, $1.20
1 pair country shoes, $1.90
mace, cinnamon & cloves, 20¢
3½ bushels of potatoes, $1.67
2 pair coarse shoes, $3.50
1 cassimere coat, $10.
2 barrels of cement, $7.
1 pair fine calf shoes, $3.35
1 grass scythe, $1.
1 sneath (scythe handle), 65¢
1 scissors, 80¢
1 set knives & forks, $2.50
pant pattern & trimmings, $1.35
1 bottle of hair tonic, $1.
1860-----1 lamp shade, $2.20 (probably ornamented glass)
1 lamp chimney, 15¢
10 lbs. cotton batting, $2.
1 vial extract of vanilla, 35¢
1 linen handkershief, 75¢
1 bottle of hair oil, 25¢ (First such purchase--for son?)
1 bottle of perfume, 75¢
1861-----1 curry comb, 25¢
1 blanket, $3.75
2 silk handkerchiefs, $2.
On Aug. 30, 1861 Gen. Watkins' Jackson home was invaded, ransacked and vandalized. Hence, the following entry dated Sept. 13,
Shultze & Lee, $1.25 for hauling movables home again.
1 pair of traces, 65¢
1 wool comfort, 90¢ (Evidently even their bedding was stolen)
1 dress comb, 40¢
1 hair brush, 15¢
$5 cash lent Richard to pay expens to Cape. (Significant in view of losses during raid.)
$1.50 cash to pay Mrs. Ramsey
1 tooth brush, 15¢
1 4th Reader, 60¢
3 towels, 75¢
1 pain killer, 25¢
1 set of plates & knives & forks,$
1 pitcher, 60¢
1 tea pot, 70¢
1 stew pot, $1.
3 crocks, 30¢
1 tin pan, 30¢

Dec., 1861, continued:

1 iron spoon, 20¢
1 set of iron spoons, 25¢
2 sets of cups, 4 saucers, 1 pr. blankets, $5.60
1 coffee mill, 60¢
2 tin cups, 25¢
(The above obviously to replace items stolen or destroyed in raid

1862----1 box bluing, 10¢
1 package of tripoli, 10¢
1 bottle stove blacking, 65¢
(First mention. Were they using a 2nd hand stove?)
1 gal. coal oil, 85¢
1 butcher knife, 75¢
5 lbs. rice, 50¢
1 sifter, 35¢
1 kitchen knife, 35¢
2 pair of snuffers, 40¢
(First mention. Apparently now, for first time, using candles to illuminate at least a part of their home.)
1 Brittania pitcher, $1.75
soda, 10¢
1 Barlow knife, 15¢
2 lbs. butter, 25¢
2 salt cellars, 35¢
fish hook & lines, 10¢
1 American Speaker (book), 65¢
1 spade, $1.25
1 cream pitcher, 30¢
1 bottle "M. Liniment," 25¢
1 iron ladle, 25¢
3 lbs. of coffee, $1.
1 bushel of meal, 40¢
10 chickens, $1.
1 set of soup dishes, 80¢
1 set of tumblers, 75¢
1 slate pencil, 5¢
"1 wool hat for Irishman," $1.25
3 padlocks, $1.20
(Evidently felt need to secure his possessions, insofar as possible.)

1863----- 1 clock, bought at St. Louis, $10.50
1 hoop skirt, $2.50
$5 cash to send to St. Louis
1 hat bought at St. Louis for General, $5.
1 overcoat for Nat bought at St. Louis, $7.50
castor oil, 25¢
1 arithmetic, 50¢
Domestic bought at St. Louis, $18.59
$9. cash paid Sam Daugherty
Silk hat bought in St. Louis, $10.
(Do these entries indicate that the General was then in St. Louis?)

LAST ENTRY IN THE WALLING & PRIEST BILL
1868--Sept. 22--"hand loading furniture $2.58"

Final item on this bill, a pair of ladies gaiters, was purchased July 11, 1866. No items were purchased that year for an adult male, suggesting that the General and his sons were no longer at Jackson.

The Sept. 22, 1868 entry probably represents the removal of the last of their personal property from Jackson to their new home just north of where the new town of Morley was then being founded.

BILL SUBMITTED TO THE WATKINS ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR BY Dr. C.C. HARRIS

Dr. Christopher C. Harris came to Morley in 1872 and remained there until 1877, at which time he moved his practice to Benton.

~~The Dr. Curd, who is mentioned in this bill as having substituted~~

The Dr. Curd, who is mentioned in this bill as having substituted for Dr. Harris, on one call, was Dr. E.B. Curd, brother of Benjamin Curd, who ran a store at Morley.

The bill itself is itemized as to date of "visit" and charge, but not as to medicines prescribed.

It begins with a series of "visits" to treat Mrs. Watkins. These began on Sept. 26, 1874, when a single visit was made. Then, beginning on Jan. 28, 1875, a series of nine visits, the last being made March 19, 1875.

For these and all subsequent calls, Dr. Harris charged $2.50 each. General Watkins, however, paid only $10 of this $25.50 bill, and that not until Dec. 3, 1875.

The General's final illness appears to have begun about March 11, 1876, as that was the date on which Dr. Harris paid him the first of a series of seven visits. The last was on March 20th, the day the General died. The unpaid balance on the two bills was $34, the amount submitted to the administrator for payment from the General's estate.

REAL ESTATE OWNED BY GENERAL WATKINS AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH

According to the "Inventory of the real estate belonging to the estate of Nathaniel Watkins, deceased," his property at the time of his death consisted of 22 tracts of land. Total acreage was 1,117. The above does not include town lots numbers 25, 35 and 36 in Benton, nor does it include Lot No. 9 in Block No. 10, and Lot No. 1 in Block No. 23, in the town of Morley.

This land was divided geographically into three segments, 150 acres of which was located in Sections 19 and 20, Township 28, Range 13, just south of the town of Oran. Another tract, of only 40 acres, was in Section 4, Township 27, Range 13, about two miles due west of Morley. But the main tract was in Sections 22, 26, 27, 28, and 34, all in Township 28, Range 13, and centered around Mrs. James Parrott's Survey 639 property just north of Morley.

Washington L. Watkins, the General's son, [illegible] was the original administrator selected to administer the General' estate, but died before his task was completed. William Ballentine was then appointed administrator de bonis to handle the sale of the above mentioned land and to finish settling the estate.

Hence, it was Ballentine who had bills printed, notifying the public that "on the 20th day of April, 1881, at the south door of the court house, in the town of Benton" the General's land would be sold at auction, on terms of one fifth cash, and the balance in six months from day of sale.

DEBTS ALLOWED AGAINST THE ESTATE OF N.W. WATKINS, DECEASED

Dr. C.C. Harris $20; Welling & Priest $598.28; Benjamin B. Gaither $537.10 & $68.65; Wm. B. Anderson $638.35; Wm. Burgess $8; John M. Owens Est. $126; Thos. J.

Mason estate $20.95; Jesse Friend $11.45; Joseph Schmuke $129.63, and the McFarland estate $230.

Total of "debts allowed:" $2,405.03

SOME SIGNIFICANT MINUTES EXTRACTED FROM SCOTT COUNTY COUNTY COURT RECORD BOOK NUMBER 3

Oct. 5, 1868. Nathaniel W. Watkins and 22 others signed a petition for road improvements on the road through Morley.

This is the first entry in the County Court's records indicating that General Watkins was in residence at Beechlands; a fact that jibes with the Sept. 22, 1868 Walling & Priest charge for packing his furniture at Jackson.

April 5, 1869. N.W. Watkins and others petition court to appoint William Proctor to the office of justice of the peace.

Oct. 6, 1868. A.C. Ketchum and 16 others, inhabitants of the village of Morley, petition court to incorporate said town. Petition approved by court, and the following men appointed as trustees until election: A.C. Ketchum, W.J. Walsh, John Riggs, Alexander Courtney and James D. White.

May 23, 1870. N.W. Watkins, representing James D. White, requests court to rescind order incorporating Morley. Order rescinded.

James D. White, by his attorney, presents petition of himself and 40 others to incorporate the village of Morley again. Petition was granted and the following trustees appointed: James Boutwell, Henry Wadsworth, George R. Wilson, B.V. Yardell and L. O'Brien. Morley's

location described as being in the SW¼ of Section 34 and E½ of the SE¼ of Section 33, all in Township 28, Range 13E.

BENTON

In the many days I have spent in the court house at Benton I have become more and more aware of the extent and nature of the damage inflicted on the county' records during the Civil War. In fact, since I have inspected the records of all of the county's offices, my assessment of this damage may be the most complete of any since it was sustained in 1862.

Hence, for the benefit of future historians, and as an explanation of what will follow in this history of Benton, it seems to me that an outline of the actual nature of these losses is not inappropriate for insertion in this history at this juncture.

First, let me say that no documented account has ever been published as to exactly how or when these losses were sustained. The best I have been able to locate is an account written by William Hawkins back in the 1960s. This was written as a part of Mr. Hawkin's "History of the Hawkins Family," which was published as a series of articles in the Scott County Democrat.

Unfortunately Mr. Hawkins did not tell the source of his information, but since two of his uncles served in the Union Army, and one of the two was stationed for a considerable time at Cape Girardeau, they or some of their fellow veterans may have supplied the following account.

"Late in 1862, a group of 'white-trash' Union cavalry took over the Courthouse, ransacked it, stealing everything of value, threw books, papers and records helter-skelter over the floors, walked, tramped over them, even rode their horses through the offices and halls on the lower floor, set fire and tried to burn everything."

"But while the Yankee sore-heads were in the Courthouse, destroying and trying to burn the place, young Myers, grandson of Col. Wm. Myers, founder of Benton, saw the raiders coming into town, and before they

had even decided what devilment they'd do he mounted his father's horse, and without a saddle rode bareback to Morley, where he knew that a small force of Rebel horse soldiers were camped.

Within 30 or 40 minutes after the Yankees came storming into town from the north, some forty Rebels were riding and yelling up the hill past the Bollinger place, south of town and into the Courtyard Square."

"The Yanks--thinking, from the noise being made by the approaching Rebels, that a whole battalion must be charging up the hill, rushed out of the courthouse, with its smouldering fires, in all offices, mounted their horses and rode, hell-bent towards Cape Girardeau.

The boys from Morley, quickly put out the fires, but left the place in a shambles."

County Court records indicate, in an entry dated June 23, 1862, that heavy damage to county records had been inflicted in a raid that occurred a short time before that date. In addition, further destruction appears to have been sustained in raids of a later date than that so graphically described by Mr. Hawkins, and that these continued intermittently until 1864, when the records were moved to the comparative safety of the new countyseat at Commerce.

Now, as to precisely what was lost: All file box records of the Probate Court were destroyed, also some of the record books; likewise, all tax assessment and tax collection records were burned, along with all of the detailed transcript records of Circuit Court cases. Some of the books summarizing these cases have survived, but they are of little use to the historian.

Land transfer records, bound in heavy, almost fireproof, volumes largely survived. Parts of the first five volumes were damaged or

lost. Some of the documents from these have been transcribed into a single volume. Also, the first 200 pages of Warranty Deed Book No. 7 have been so damaged or consumed by fire as to be illegible, and another volume, still legible, bears evidence of having been thrown on the floor and smeared with mud. Volume twelve is missing entirely, but an account in the Commerce "Dispatch" indicates that it was stolen while being used as evidence in a court case being tried at Commerce.

The County Court's minute books have all survived, except for the records covering the years 1822 to 1831. All of these are in the County Clerk's office, except for the one covering the period 1831 to 1839, which is in the Probate Court offices on the second floor. It is badly damaged and direly in need of being transcribed or rebound, preferably the latter.

These losses make research into the antebellum history of the county an extremely tedious and difficult task. Records concerning the early history of Benton seem especially to have suffered, partly because of the loss of 1822-1831 County Court records that covered the founding, laying out and sale of lots, business licenses issued, etc., etc. Nor is that all, for everything, including the real estate transfer records, covering these early years, seem, for one reason or another, to not have been recorded.

Even the records on William Myers, on whose land the town of Benton was established, are not clear. Newspaper and other accounts state that he arrived at the site of Benton in 1814. Also, it has

generally been assumed that the William Myers who is buried in the old cemetery on the south side of Benton, is the one who first settled in the area. His tombstone indicates that he was born in 1783 and died Jan. 2, 1861; and that his wife, Nancy, was born Sept. 11,1789 and died Feb. 4, 1853. It is this Myers whose will is included in this history.

This will, dated March 10, 1859, shows that Myers' wife then was named Catherine, indicating he had remarried after Nancy's death in 1853.. The will lists his grandchildren as Jane Elizabeth Myers, Judith Gist, Thomas Gist, Mary Gist and Helen Gist, and Abraham Hunter of Scott County, Isaac Hunter of New Madrid County and Thomas Hunter of Mississippi County as executors of his will.

All of this appears definite enough, until we read William Hunter's biography in Goodspeed's History of SE. Missouri. William was a son of the above mentioned Thomas Hunter and of Eliza (Myers) Hunter, daughter of William Myers. William Hunter was born Sept. 11, 1848, and his mother did not die until Sept. 13, 1861, so he must have been acquainted with her family history, and with the William Myers who died at Benton in 1861. Too, William Hunter was an educated man, a graduate of Harvard Law School,and in 1888, when this biography was written, he was practicing law in Benton. He, consequently, had every opportunity for acquainting himself with the history of his mother's family. Yet, in this biography he says that his mother, Eliza Myers, was born at the present site of Benton on March 13, 1813, and died at Belmont, Mo., Sept. 13, 1861. And that she "was a daughter of William Myers, who settled on the

present site of Benton and reared a large family of children. The Myers family removed from North Carolina to Tennessee, and from the latter State to Southeast Missouri about 1796."

Then there are two documents, both dating into the mid 1820s, that refer to William Myers, Senior. One of these, dated Dec. 20, 1826, can be found in Warranty Deed Book No. 2, page 63. Land sales in the 1830s, however, list Nancy as the wife of the Wm. Myers making these deals.

Do these facts mean that there was an elder William Myers, who died about 1830? If so, the William Myers who died in 1861 would have been William Hunter's uncle, rather than his grandfather, and quite naturally would not have included Hunter in his [redacted] will, since he would have been only a nephew.

William Myers is also said to have been a "commissioned officer in the War of 1812," but I have seen no documented evidence of this. And any service he saw in this conflict must have been incredibly brief, in order for him to have a daughter born at the site of Benton in 1813.

This mess could likely be straightened out by research in Tennessee or Kentucky and at the National Archives in Washington, but having no funds allocated for that purpose, I am, by necessity, leaving that task to others.

As to Benton itself, we know that shortly after the boundary lines of the county were designated by the State Legislature, a county commission made up of Thomas Roberts, Enoch Evans, Newman Beckwith, Joseph Smith, and Abraham and Joseph Hunter began their appointed task of selecting and locating a "Seat of Justice" for the new county.

Why they selected the Benton site, though, is something of a mystery, since it was in the northwest corner of the county, which, at that time, included what is now Mississippi County. The center of the county, as then designated, would have been about midway between Winchester and the future site of Charleston.

At any rate, William Myers donated 40 acres of land for the new countyseat, although no record of this transaction appears to have survived, and since the Myers continued to own many lots in the town, even as late as 1860, one wonders if there were not some strings attached to this "donation."

No record appears to have survived, either, as to the identity of the commissioners who actually laid out the town of Benton. Nor have any records of the first sale of lots survived. We know from later documents that this took place on Oct. 22, 1822, and consequently can assume that the town was surveyed no more than a month or two before that date. Less than a year later the town of Commerce was surveyed and the lots in it sold at public auction. In that case we know that the commissioners who laid off the town were Wilson Able, James Purtle, Thomas Roberts, Joseph Smith and James Wellborn, and there is some circumstantial evidence that they may have also been the commissioners who laid off Benton. (See footnote on page 211 1/2)

One bit of this evidence is that the street names in both towns are almost identical, as you will see in the following list of these names:

BENTON	COMMERCE
Saint Mary's	Saint Mary's
New Madrid	New Madrid
Winchester	Washington
Cape Girardeau	Cape Girardeau
North	North
Missouri	Missouri
Tywappity	Tywappity
South	South
	Water
	Spring

On August 27, 1822 Governor Alexander McNair appointed George C. Harbison as the first county surveyor for the newly organized County of Scott. As county surveyor it would have been his duty to survey and plat both Benton and Commerce, and consequently it seems safe to assume that both surveys were made by Harbison.

Harbison was elected clerk of the county court in 1828, and was continued in that office until 1842

"LAWS OF MISSOURI," 1825 (New seats of justice laws passed about 1821)

"Seats of Justice--New Counties: Sale of Lots to Private Individuals.

"To be made in such manner and upon such terms as they (the County Court) shall deem expedient, so that at least one fourth of the purchase money be paid in ready money.

The purchaser shall give his note or bond to secure the payment of each installment---and the said commissioner shall make and deliver to the purchaser a certificate describing the lot to him sold, the price, the amount paid, the balance to be paid, when due, and how secured; which certificate shall be assignable. And when full payment shall be made, the said commissioner shall execute a deed for the lot.

If default shall be made in the payment of the purchase money of any lot, the aforesaid commissioner shall sell the same for ready money to the highest bidder, at public auction."

Some modification of this must have been followed in the disposing of lots in the town of Benton, for in some cases the final payment was not called for until many years after the initial Oct. 22, 1822 sale of lots.

Then there is the following document, the implications of which are even more puzzling.

Scott County Warranty Deed Record Book 6, Pages 276 & 277.

"Know all men by these presents that whereas the late Commissioners for the location of the county seat of Scott County and for the sale of lots in the town of Benton said location did on the 22nd day of October in the year 1822 at a public sale sell a number of lots to different

individuals and that at the county court of said county of said County of Scott on the eleventh day of November in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty nine the said court then made their order Concerning said sale to a number of lots then sold and ordered present commissioners of said Town of Benton to make deeds to the purchasers of the lots of said sale to the purchasers or to their legal representatives upon the payment of the purchase money or the money bid and offered at said sale offered for said lots the original commissioners never having made any title (nor?) received the amount bid for lots at original sale. Now therefore I Joseph Hunter present commissioner of said town of Benton in consideration of the premises aforesaid and for andin consideration of the sum of fifty four dollars and twenty five cents to me in hand paid by the heirs and legal representatives of Thomas Houts deceased all the right title claim interest and demand either in law or Equity as the county of Scott has to the above described lots in the town of Benton as fully as the same was derived from Thomas Houts and William Myers together with all the improvements appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining to them the said heirs and legal representatives of the said Thomas Houts and their heirs forever to their own proper use benefit and behoof free and clear from all claims or demand of the said county of Scott or any persons claiming the same by through or under the said county of Scott In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal at Benton this 8th day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty.

Signed: Joseph Hunter (Seal)

Witness John Harbison

In the 17 years that had elapsed since the 1822 sale of these lots there should have been numerous such deeds recorded. However, I have found only one. It is dated Jan. 3, 1831, and is described as being, not a deed, but "an article of agreement" between the buyer, Joseph Hunter, and Michael McLaughlin, acting as Commissioner of the County Seat of Scott County. It conveyed "all the right, title, interest and estate which the said County of Scott hath in and to a certain lot or parcel of ground situate, lying and being in the Town of Benton," whereas, the before quoted 1840 deed conveyed "all right, title, claim, interest and demand, either in law or equity as the County of Scott has to the above described lots in the town of Benton, as fully as the same was derived from Thomas Houts and William Myers."

In addition, there are only three or four recorded resales of Benton town lots in the period 1822 to 1839.

The explanation of this peculiar state of affairs is that William Myers did not actually own the land on which Benton was laid out. What he conveyed in 1822 seems to have been something in the nature of pre-emption rights, because it is a matter of record that he did not actually pay for, nor receive a patent for, the 35 3/10 acres of Benton located in the NE¼ of fractional Section 13, Twp. 28 N., R. 13 E., until June 16, 1838.

Prior to the issuance of this patent, all that Myers or the county could convey was an equitable title. Only after the patent had been issued could the commissioners convey a fully lawful title.

There is a document on record, too, that shows that Myers and Thomas Houts swapped pre-emption rights on some of their Benton area land, which fact no doubt accounts for the "derived from Thomas Houts and William Myers" statement in the 1840 deed.

(Subsequent examination of county assessment records show William Myers as the "original claimant" of most of the lots in Benton, but also that Thomas Houts was the "original claimant" for a number of them.)

On Jan. 3, 1831 Michael McLaughlin, acting as Commissioner for the town of Benton, sold Joseph Hunter Lot No. 52, on the west side of courthouse square. The price Hunter paid, $15, makes it apparent that it was vacant at the time he bought it; it indicates, too, since it was one of the better business locations, that the town was still largely undeveloped nine years after it had been founded.

Subsequently Hunter erected a frame store building on this lot. It is said to have been the first such structure erected in Benton. Even the courthouse, which was erected shortly after the town was founded, was of log construction.

Joseph Hunter died about the year 1841, and his widow married Albion Crow. Albion Crow, in partnership with A.J. McCrery, then took over and continued the operation of the Hunter store.

Michael McLaughlin and John Houts were also early merchants. On May 2, 1827 Thomas Houts sold Lot 60 to Michael McLaughlin for $2, a sum that clearly indicates that the lot was vacant at that time, and that McLaughlin erected his store building on it at some later date.

On May 11, 1837, Lots Nos. 61 & 62, which border the courthouse square on the north, were sold by Federal B. and Susannah Everett to John Ravenscroft and Alvin Cook. Historians have made no mention of the Everetts, but the deed refers to "all and singular the houses, building and appurtenances thereon," so there appears to have been a dwelling and a business house of some sort on them.

Others who are said to have been merchants in Benton at some time during the 1830s are John Harbison, Dr. E.B. Lavalle and Abraham Winchester.

William Myers contributions to Benton went considerably beyond his gift of land. He established the town's first industry, a whiskey distillery, which is first mentioned in a deed dated Dec. 17, 1823, wherein there is reference to Myers' "stillhouse." He was also the towns first postmaster and the county's first coroner, a position to which he was elected Aug. 1, 1822, and to which he was reelected for a decade or so.

He also served as bondsman for a number of the county's early office holders, including Joseph A. Hopkins, the county's first sheriff, whose $5,000 bond was signed by Myers and John Hall.

Thomas Houts also settled in the immediate vicinity of Benton. But the honor of establishing the first business in the town has usually been given to Edmund Rogers, although I have been unable to find any documentary evidence to support that claim, nor have I seen anything to indicate that his tavern was erected before the townsite was surveyed, as some have claimed.

It has been thought that Rogers' tavern was located on Lot 53. If that is so, he did not remain there very long, as there is a deed dated Dec. 31, 1831 that indicates that Robert Ravenscroft was then residing in a "house" on that lot, and that G.H. Netherton also had a store on it. The "house" may have referred to the tavern, as most of the old taverns were that, with one room for the entertaining of guests. Earlier historians have indicated that Robert Ravenscroft did, indeed, own the Rogers' log tavern at one time, and, that it later passed into the hands of John Hall, H.D. Spears, Wm. A. Penny and James Weaver.

Warranty Deed Book 3, page 62, shows William Myers, on Jan. 2, 1832, selling Lot No. 53 to G.H. Netherton for $100.

To further cloud this situation, we have a deed dated Sept. 20, 1835, wherein George H. Netherton and Abby Netherton, "of New Madrid County," for the sum of $400, sold John Hall half of Lot No. 53 in the town of Benton, "on which the said John Hall at present resides and keeps a tavern." Yet, as we shall see, Edmund Rogers was still running a tavern in Benton as late as 1833, which would hardly provide time for it to have been owned by Robert Ravenscroft and George Netherton, and subsequently under lease, by John Hall.

John Ravenscroft was operating a grocery store in one of the buildings on Lots 61 and 62 in 1839, suggesting the possibility that Federal B. Everett had also had a business of that nature there.

Further evidence that Edmund Rogers' tavern was not on Lot 53, which was in the possession of Robert Ravenscroft and G.H. Netherton in 1831, is provided by a note in the County Court Records for 1833, that a tavern license had been issued to Edmund Rogers.

A county jail was erected in Benton in 1837 at a cost of $500. Previously prisoners had been taken to the Cape Girardeau County jail at Jackson. The same situation prevailed, as to the county's legal advertising, which had to be placed in Cape Girardeau or Jackson newspapers. Moreover, this latter situation was not remedied until 1867, when the Commerce "Dispatch" at last provided a local medium suitable for carrying the county's legal advertising.

As to Benton, it did not have a newspaper until 1879, when "The Record," edited by George M. Moore, was established. This lack of county newspapers, I might add, further complicates the task of anyone attempting to research the early history of Scott County.

One of the early lawyers at Benton was John Chapman, an easterner who arrived in Benton some time in the 1830s. Levi S. Green, a native of New York state, came to Benton in 1850, and became prominent in the affairs of Benton and the county. Green eventually came to own a considerable amount of property in Benton. He also owned, in partnership with Stephen Boutwell, a tavern, for which a license was issued by the County Court during its July, 1860 term.

Dr. Alexander S. Henderson arrived in 1842, and continued to practice there up at least until the time of the Civil War.

We are fortunate in that one of his itemized bills has been preserved for us among the estate papers of William Cox, who died in March of 1859.

Medical Bill, April 2, 1857 to March 3, 1859, submitted by Dr. A.S. Henderson to the administrators of the estate of Wm. Cox.

April 2, 1857	To	Cathartic for wife---------25¢
		Solution of quinine--------50¢
Aug. 15, 1858		Extracting tooth for wife---50¢
Aug. 25, 1858		Cathartic for wife---------25¢
Sept. 10, 1858		Medicine ----------25¢
Sept. 13, 1858		Sol. quinine for child---- 50¢
Sept. 18, 1858		Cathartic Powders--------- 50¢
Oct. 16, 1858		Visit to child----------$5.
		Medicine---------- 50¢
Oct. 19, 1858		Visit to child----------$5.
		Quinine & Blue Mass Pills--50¢ (blue mass was a mercurial)
Oct. 25, 1858		Visit to child & medicine---$5.25
		Total------$19.25
Feb. 13, 1859		Visit to Self (Wm. Cox) & Medicine--$5.75
		Venesection (blood letting)---50¢
		Large blistering plaster------50¢
Feb. 15, 1859		Visit to Self & Medicine----$5.50
Feb. 17, 1859		Cathartic Powders----------75¢
Feb. 18, 1859		Visit to Self & Medicine----$5.50
Feb. 19, 1859		Visit to Self & Medicine----$5.50
Feb. 20, 1859		Visit to Self & Cathartic Powders---$5.50
Feb. 22, 1859		Visit & Hive Syrup (syrup of squill)--$5.50

Feb. 24, 1859 Borax----------25¢

March 1, 1859 Creosote---------25¢

March 3, 1859 Visit & Medicine--$5.25
$40. 50
During last illness--$59.75

A deed made Oct. 1, 1844, is of interest here, because it lists the heirs of the pioneer Benton settler Thomas Houts, also shows the ownership of the several tracts of land bordering the town on the east.

This deed was made by George W. Houts & Elizabeth Houts, his wife; George C. Harbison and Maria (Houts) Harbison, his wife; Sarah Houts, Margaret A. Houts and Elizabeth Houts, and involved the sale of 50 acres of land to Alexander Giboney and Anthony T. Search, the purchase price being $300., and the description as follows:

"A certain tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in the County of Scott, bounded on the west by the town of Benton. On the south by land belonging to William Myers, and the east by land belonging to Benjamin F. Lawrence, on the north by land belonging to John and George Harbison."

Felix G. Allen was an early property owner in Benton, one of his first purchases being made on March 16, 1840. He was Scott County's representative in the state legislature 1834 to 1836, a judge of the County Court from 1836 to 1840, clerk of the County Court from 1842 to 1856, and postmaster at Benton from 1853 to 1856. Felix Allen died Sept. 25, 1856, and he, and probably his father, Wm. Allen, Revolutionary War veteran, are buried in a family cemetery just north of Felker Park.

The following from the files of the Probate Court of Scott County is a "List of Sales of the Personal Property of the estate of Felix G. Allen, deceased, made by Benjamin Benefield, Executor, 20th October 1860."

LIST OF SALES AT AUCTION OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF FELIX G. ALLEN

The bulk of his belongings were bid in by members of his family and their names will not be listed, but prices will be, also the names of buyers other than those of the Allen family.

BOOKS

History of England $1.25

Statesman's Manual $2.50

Clarke's Commentary $1.60

Life of Washington 50¢

The World $1.00

Rollin's History $1.00

Macauley's History of England $1.00

Josephus' History of the Jews $2.50

The Reformation $1.00

Oliver Goldsmith's Nature $2.50

John Wesley's Philosophy $1.00

Works of John Milton $1.00

Dictionary $1.00

Book on Surveying 50¢

U.S. Constitution 50¢

Kent's Commentaries on American Law 50¢

Alexander Pope's Poems $1.00

Life of Shakespeare $1.00

Recipe Book $1.00

Nineveh & Its Remains $1.00

New Testament 75¢

Missouri Digest 75¢

One lot of unspecified books $2.25

Bureau & Book case $15.00

Map of Missouri 25¢

Map of the Presidents 50¢

Map of the United States 75¢

Engraving of the Last Supper 25¢

Five asst. engravings $1.25

All of the foregoing bid in by Allen's family.

Table & cloth $2.50

Center Table & Cover $6.00

Stand Table $2.

Looking Glass $2.

Mantel Clock $5.

Rocking Chair 50¢

Bed, Stead & Covering $28.00

Toilet Pitcher 50¢

Two Spitoons 20¢

Andirons, shovel & Tongs $2.25

Three Windsor Chairs 30¢

Looking Glass $2.50

Bed, Stead & Furniture $35.00

Table $1.75

Clock $2.50

Set of Castors $15.00

Ladle & Bowl $6.

Lot of Glassware $4.00

Liverpool Ware 75¢

Bureau & Clothes Press $10.

Set of China $3.

Lot of Ware $1.60

One Cupboard $6.00

Bed, Covering & Stead $20.

Trundle Bed & Stead $10.

Bed, Covering & Stead $20.

One Candle Stand $3.75

One Chest 50¢

Bed, Bedding & Stead $26.

Bed, Bedding & Stead $39.

Bed, Bedding & Stead $20.

Two Quilts & c. $35.

Mattress $2.50

Chest $1.25

Marseilles Quilt $1.50

Lot of Bed Clothes $4.00

Loom, bought by James Hill, $6.25

6 silver tablespoons $6.

6 silver teaspoons $3.10

Iron Kettle 60¢

4 jars $1.

1 Broad Axe $1.80

3 augers 60¢

Saw, 2 planes & Draw Knife 85¢

Wagon $39.

Cradle 50¢

Safe and 3 Waiters $2.50

Log Chain $1.10

Wagon, bid in by J.W. Evins, $24.50

Wheat Fan $5.

Two Scoops $1.50

Thresher $26.

Yoke of Oxen, by Henry Shane, $56.

Two Steers $40.

Two Steers, by Jos. H. Moore, $25.

Red Steer, by Geo. McDowell, $15.

Yoke of Oxen, by J.W. Evins, $25.50

Harrow & Chain $4.50

Black Steer, by J.W. Evins, $6.50

Cow $9.

Cow, by Jos. H. Moore, $11.

Cow, by Israel Hedge, $8.50

Cow $9.

Cow, by T.D. Harbison, $8.

Cow $18.

Heifer, by Jos. H. Moore, $5.25

Cow $10.50

Cow $7.

Heifer, T.D. Harbison, $8.

Heifer, by J.W. Evins, $7.

Same, by J.W. Evins, $6.75

On the public square stood an old log building about twenty feet square, which was the court house, church, school house, gambling house, and (when not otherwise occupied) a shelter for sheep and hogs, the door being like our court house, seldom closed.

On Monday morning we stepped into Penny's 'tavern,' where a lawyer C---- and a Dr. D ----- (Docker?) were playing checkers. Breakfast was announced, but the players kept on. No one spoke, and each seemed intent upon the game, when suddenly one of them---no matter which---seized the checker board and brought it down kersmash upon the other's head. Of course the two came together in double-quick, and the fight brought the crowd from the dining room, where any amount of noise and confusion was then in order. As this was the first fight we had seen in Missouri, and having read accounts of eye gouging, biting off ears and noses, together with bowie knives and such like implements, we felt much like getting away, but the door was blockaded, and the best thing--indeed the only thing--we could do was to get in a corner, and wait for the denoument. We did not wait long, however, as the half-fed crowd got tired. Gen. Watkins proposed that they should adjourn the fight until after breakfast. The hungryites went back to their breakfast; the combatants got up, with lots of dirt on their fine clothes, a big ruffle most terribly wilted, and no other harm done.

About 10 o'clock, a carpenter, by the name of Jeffords, and an old gentleman called Commodore Roggers, who always carried an umbrella, met at Ravenscroft's and another fight followed, in which the umbrella was broken, but no other injury done. Soon after, Col. Myers and John Polly, a blacksmith, were at the grocery, when they differed about something and a fight ensued, but, as usual, no particular harm done --Col. Myers, however, claiming a victory, as he had made Polly's

nose bleed, and had therefore drawn the first blood.

These were all the fights we saw in the first half day, although there may have been more, and there would have been one the next morning between John Northcut and Jim Husk if Jim could have been found--John's clothing not being in a very presentable condition at that time, for which he held Jim responsible. The vesture and raiments of John were an old pair of russet brogans, a pair of pants borrowed of John Ravenscroft--which one being tall and the other short, reached just below the knee--a home-made linen shirt, and no hat. This was the costume, and as John was a man like Esau, hairy all over, his appearance can well be imagined.

The court house was an old log building, with a board loft, a door on one side, a window on the other, and a chimney in one end. In the south-west corner, next the chimney, was a platform about two feet high; on this a very old dilapidated kitchen chair, on which sat the Hon. John D. Cook, Judge of the Court.

Fronting the Judge was a long plank table, ornamented with elaborate jack-knife devices, at which sat George C. Harbison, clerk of the court. He was a clever man, and said to have been one of the best clerks on the circuit; but he had got acquainted with John Ravenscroft, and sometimes court had to be adjourned early in the afternoon. We do not recollect who was sheriff then, but John Harbison was deputy, and did all the business.

Alvin Cook had just then settled in Benton, and was the only lawyer at that time in the county. He was a good lawyer, but had little powers as an advocate. When the gold fever started in California, Alvin went there, but died just as he reached its boundaries. Peace to his ashes. Most of the little law we have acquired came from Alvin Cook.

Two other lawyers who attended that court were N.W. Watkins and Greer W. Davis, they being the only lawyers now living who were present at that court.

The court house as we have said was made of logs, and the interstices between them were none too well filled with chinking and daubing. Near the Judge's head there was a want of continuity, which permitted the wind to be troublesome. After some attempts at caulking, with litte effect, the Judge put on his hat and proceeded to business. Soon after the attention of Sheriff Harbison was called to a man sitting on a bench near the middle of the room, with his hat on. John crowded his way in, and touching his shoulder, motioned him to take off his hat. It was not done; then John undertook to remove the hat, but it was no go--the owner held it on, and pointing to the Judge, sputtered a mass of French and English which John nor no one else understood. As this was directly in front of the Judge, who knowing the party, ordered the Sheriff to let the gentleman alone. So the hat retained its position, and being one of those tar-bucket-stove-pipe concerns of former days, it loomed up like a light house above the sea of heads around it.

When court adjourned the matter was explained. The wearer was one Mathew Bogliolio, a Frenchman of New Madrid, who had a suit in court. Monsieur Bogliolio had been raised in La Belle France, and understood matters of etiquette, he claimed; and it took at least an hour to explain it--that when La Grande Emperor, or any other big bug, put on his hat in company, that all the people in waiting should do the same, and therefore when Judge Cook put on his hat, all the people in the court house should follow suit to show respect and honor to the Judge."

BENTON'S CHURCHES

Apparently Benton had a Methodist Church at a very early date, probably as early as the 1820s; or at least so one might infer from the diary of Jacob Launius, presiding elder of the Cape Girardeau District during the years 1839 and 1840.

In his entry for Nov. 14, 1839, Launius noted that he had "traveled thirty miles today and lodged at the house of old Mother Houts, near Benton, the county seat of Scott County. Here the church once prospered but is now in moral ruins."

April 11, 1840--"Commenced the quarterly meeting for New Madrid Circuit in Benton, the county seat of Scott; the congregation small and careless, and the professors cold. This was once a numerous society, but removals and deaths have reduced it almost to a unit. Satan seems to have his seat here and intemperance reigns."

Part of this indifference may have been due to the political disputations that were then tearing the church apart, and which developed into an open rupture on May 1, 1845,with the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

At any rate, by 1852 there was a Southern Methodist pastor, J.M. McEwan, serving the Little Prairie (Pleasant Plains?) church and the "Benton Mission." In 1853 the Benton church was sufficiently organized to have its own pastor, in this case J. Campbell. A. Rucker was the last antebellum pastor, serving in the years 1859 and 1860. No Southern Methodist services were held at Benton during the war, but were resumed in the fall of 1865.

There is no mention of a Baptist Church at Benton until after the Charleston Association was organized in 1876. And the first positive mention is in Goodspeed's History of SE. Missouri, which indicates that there was a Baptist Church in Benton in 1887, but does not give

any information on how long it had been in existence at that time.

On Feb. 14, 1843 William & Nancy Myers deeded a one acre tract to the Roman Catholic Church of Scott County, and in the spring of 1844 the members of this congregation erected a log church building on the site. The parish organization was founded in 1843, but went out of existence some time in the period 1848 to 1850. Incendiaries burned the church building in 1848 and the church site was deeded back to Myers on Oct. 5, 1850. The present Catholic parish at Benton was not authorized by church authorities until 1904.

EARLY SCHOOLS AT BENTON

Practically nothing is know of the schools in the Benton area prior to the Civil War. There are vague references to a school house "about one-half mile of the town," where James Dye and James Douglass are said to have been teachers at one time or another.

Beyond that, practically nothing. Even the records of the county superintendent's office seem to have disappeared since that office was discontinued about 1965. They may still be in existence, but my inquiries so far have not provided any clues as to their whereabouts at the present time.

[redacted]

The 1875 edition of Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri mentions that Benton then had "one of the best schoolhouses in the county," and that is the first positive mention I have found of a school

at Benton.

The truth seems to be that our school system was still very much in an infantile state when the Civil War started. The census of 1860 showed the county as then having only eight schools and eight school teachers. These were attended by 225 students, or an average of only 28 students per school.

All of these schools, except possibly the one at Commerce, were closed down during the war, and some of the buildings no doubt were destroyed during that conflict.

How backward we were in educational matters is shown by the fact that the state's first free public high school, which was located in St. Louis, was not organized until the winter of 1852-1853; and the second one, at St. Joseph, not until 1866.

One of the few indications of a growing interest in education in the county before the Civil War was the appointment by the County Court, on Dec. 21, 1853, of Morris Moore as Commissioner of Schools. With only eight schools to superintend, his duties were obviously not of the extremely onerous variety.

The county's old log courthouse was replaced by a 2-story brick edifice in 1844. While of rather imposing appearance, it was so poorly constructed that on April 28, 1857, a commission made up of Benjamin Benefield, Benjamin Silman and George Petit was appointed to determine whether the courthouse could be repaired. Their report, submitted on May 27, 1857, indicated that the courthouse building was beyond repair and that a new one should be constructed.

A new frame courthouse was consequently constructed, and must have been completed by Jan. 25, 1858, since, on that date, the

county court authorized payment for painting the new courthouse.

This courthouse (following transfer of the county seat to Commerce) was sold at a public sale on July 26, 1864 to Benjamim Gaither. And since the building was on county property, Gaither had to tear it down and move it.

During the July term of the County Court, Wm. Myers and wife donated Lot 4, Block 1, in Myers' addition to Benton for a site for a church house. No mention is made of the denomination for which the proposed church house was to be constructed.

Benton seems to have been growing and prospering just before the Civil War. Some evidence of the amount of business being transacted is evidenced by the fact that at the time of Felix G. Allen's death, there was a total of $7,911.00 in store accounts owing to his mercantile firm of Allen & Baker.

With the onset of the war, all business, public or private, was brought to a virtual standstill. Even real estate sales ceased, since obviously no man in his right mind would want to buy property in a war zone. Evidence of this is provided by Warranty Deed Book No. 14, where the last land transfer entry was dated May 20, 1861, and Book 15, with the next entry, which bears the date of Sept. 27, 1862. Then, throughout 1863 there was only a sparse scattering of transfers, most of which resulted from causes other than the desire for the acquisition and development of land, such as is common in normal times.

Damage to papers in the court house appears to have occurred on at least three different occasions, the first about the middle of June, 1862, the second toward the close of that year, and the third in early February of the year 1864. The county court's brief entry of June 23,

1862, refers to an order by the court "to procure all books and papers and preserve all legible papers scattered in the court house and assort them." The entry dated Feb. 17, 1864 speaks of the loss or theft of papers involving the county's swamp lands.

We know, too, that Parrott's Mill and other property was burned early in the war and that the courthouse was sold and torn down in 1864, but we have no written account of other damage wrought in Benton during that turbulent period. However, there is an 1868 Assessor's Plat Book in the county assessor's office that shows who owned lots in Benton, as of late 1867; and from this information it is possible to make an educated guess at what was there two years after the war had ended.

This map shows that, of the towns 96 lots, 13 were owned by the heirs of William Myers, whose estate was still unsettled. These, it can be safely assumed were vacant lots. Eight lots were owned by Albion Crow, and one lot by Elizabeth Crow. And, as we know, by virtue of an item in the Commerce Dispatch, the Crows moved to Tennessee early in the war, so these lots, in all probability, were unoccupied, and it is not impossible that the buildings originally thereon had been destroyed, as Crow was widely known as a Confederate sympathizer.

Twelve lots were owned by Wm. Ballentine, who came to America from Scotland in 1847, went west in the Gold Rush of 1849-50, and came to Commerce in the fall of 1851, where he practiced his early profession of blacksmithing. His sympathies were with the North, and when the war began, he moved his family across the river to the comparative safety of Santa Fe, Ill., which was on "free" territory and firmly in the hands of the Union Army.

In 1862, with Union men in control of the state's government, Ballentine was appointed clerk of the county court. Hence his connection with Benton, which was still the countyseat. His biography does not indicate that he ever owned or operated a business in Benton, but county court records do show that he brought the abandoned court house building, paying $100 for it. During his stint as county clerk he studied law, took the bar examination and passed it. And after the war, having been a loyal Union man, he was appointed judge of Scott County's new and short-lived Common Pleas Court. This court was opened Monday, May 13, 1867, and its last sessions were held in the January term of 1869.

Lawyer Levi Green owned 13 lots in Benton. Two of these seem to have had buildings on them, one of which was Green's home, and the other, his dram shop, which, as we have noted, was licensed back in 1860. There can be no certainty that this last mentioned structure survived the war, but we know that Green still owned lots 44 and 53 just east of the courthouse square.

Other business lots around the square were owned by Wm. C. Hayden (Lot 60), Hartwell Brock (Lot 37), Wm. Ballentine (Lots 35 & 36), Howson Hooe (Lot 34), Albion Crow (Lots 45 and 52), Elizabeth Crow (Lot 63), R. Bay Wade (Lot 62), and R. Bay Wade and James F. Allen, as partners (Lot 61).

We have no clue as to what was on Hayden's lot, but can surmise that those owned by Brock, Ballentine and the Crows were not then the site of active businesses. R. Bay Wade and James F. Allen , in all probability,were operating the old Allen & Baker store on Lot 61.

Benton's first post-war dram shop license was issued April 28, 1865 to John S. Harrison. Two dram shop licenses were issued on August 15, 1865; one of which went to James Daniel & Brother, and the other to John P. Anderson. These were followed on Feb. 5, 1866, by the licensing of a dram shop to be operated by John Johnson. In 1869 the only Benton dram shop licensed was that of Silas W. White, suggesting that the citizenry of the Benton area had not been as thirsty for alcoholic beverages as the numerous licensees of 1865 and 1866 had thought.

By 1870 tax records show that the business lots around courthouse square were owned by Howson Hooe (Lot 34), Ballentine & Fricke (Lots 35 & 36), Benjamin F. Allen (N½ of Lot 37), Dr. Alex. S. Henderson (S½ of Lot 37), Levi S. Green (N½ of Lot 44), Wm. W. Robertson (S½ of Lot 44), Elizabeth Crow (Lot 45), Elizabeth Crow (Lot 52), Levi S. Green (Lot 53), William Hayden (Lot 60), James F. Allen (SE. prt. of Lot 61), R. Bay Wade (remainder of Lot 61), and Elizabeth Crow (Lot 63).

Lot 26 is listed as the site of a "parsonage." Lot owners not listed on the 1868 map are : Lot 3, Louis Blumenberg; Lot 4, Wm. H. McKnight; Lots 5 & 13, Thomas Brown; Lots 9, 10, 11 & 12, Daniel Leedy; Lot 16, Elvira Launius; Lot 18, James A. Hill; Lot 21, Thomas Cason; Lot 27, Howson Hooe; Lot 46, Eveline Robertson; Lot 51, Wm. A. Hughes; Lot 54, Joseph T. Anderson; Lot 59, Millie Brown; Lots 66 & 67, John H. Robenold; Lot 70, Wm. H. McCormick; Lot 84, Joseph H. Moore, and Lots 89 & 96, owned by Levi Walker.

Obviously new people were coming into Benton by 1870. For example, of the incorporators of the town back in April, 1860, only Dr. A.S. Henderson and D.H. Leedy still owned property there after the war. James Parrott was dead and Daniel Abbey and Edwin Burke were living elsewhere. All except two of the Myers heirs' 13 lots had been sold by 1870.

In 1875, according to Campbell's Gazetteer, Benton had one store, a tannery, one carding machine, a carpenter's shop (no doubt that of Daniel Leedy), a Methodist Episcopal Church South and one of the best schools in the county.

In 1880 there was Charles F. Bonnefon's establishment, "Charles' Extenuate and Billiard Hall;" The Benton Express, published by Marshall Arnold; Vincent Heisserer's store; Dr. C.C. Harris' drug store, located in his home; D.H. Leedy's carpenter shop, and Wm. M. Reeder's general merchandise store, which was located on Lot 62 northwest of the courthouse. The postoffice was located in Reeder's store at that time.

The real turning point for Benton, of course, was the reacquisition of the county seat offices and employes. Efforts in that direction began in 1872, when James F. Allen and others submitted a petition asking that the matter be decided by a vote of the people. The county court complied with their request and set Nov. 5, 1872 as the date for the election and appointed Allen and Wm. Ballentine as commissioners to validate voter registration signatures.

Under the Drake Constitution of 1865, which denied the vote to anyone "who had been in armed hostility to the United States, had ever given aid, comfort, countenance, or support to persons engaged in such hostility, or had ever disloyally held communication with such enemies," Benton's supporters had about as much chance of winning this election as a snowball would have of surviving in Hell.

Hence, it was not until 1878, when the Drake Constitution had been replacedby a new one written in 1875, that Benton could muster the votes needed to regain the honor of being the county's seat of government. So, as of March 23, 1878, the county's offices and office

holders returned to Benton, after an absence of almost exactly fourteen years. They had been tough years for Benton; in fact, the combined impact of the lawlessness and destruction of the war period and the loss of the county government, for a time gave promise of virtually destroying the town. Even in 1875 Benton was yet so insignificant that the compiler of Wilson's Directory did not even bother to mention it. Which is understandable, as we shall see, since the town, for a long period, did not so much as have a postoffice.

The names of Benton's postmasters, 1831 to 1879, and the dates on which they were appointed, are listed in the following chart:

Michael McLaughlin March 2, 1831
John Hall June 3, 1836
Joseph Hunter June 27, 1836
John L. Gasitoch Feb. 20, 1840
Albion Crow March 15, 1842
Alvin Cook March 30, 1843
Nathaniel Reed Nov. 20, 1845
John H. Mooys Aug. 17, 1847
James J. Gardiner May 5, 1852
Felix G. Allen Oct. 17, 1853
Benjamin B. Gaither Nov 26, 1856
James F. Allen Sept. 27, 1857
Charles D. Cook May 15, 1858
John A. Hinton March 24, 1860
Wiley A. Hughes Oct. 8, 1861
Hartwell Brock Oct. 10, 1862
John Anderson Feb. 24, 1864
Benton postoffice discontinued June 25, 1864; and not reopened until Feb. 27, 1877.
Voritson? Cannon Feb. 27, 1877
William Reeder May 8, 1878
Roby Cannon Jan. 2, 1879

EXCERPTS FROM WILLIAM MYERS' WILL, MADE AT BENTON ON MARCH 10, 1859

ITEM 1st--I bequeath unto my beloved wife Catherine Myers one equal fourth part of my personal estate, and my mansion house wherein I now live, together with the entry of land on which the same stands, together with all of the buildings and improvements thereunto belonging, and at her death the same to descend to and be divided in common and equal parts among my heirs at law.

ITEM 2nd--I bequeath unto my grand daughter Jane Elizabeth Myers 120 acres of land, being the SE¼ of SW¼ of Sec. 20, Twp. 28 of R 13, also SW¼ of SE¼ of same section, township and range; also NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 29, of same township and range.

ITEM 3rd--It is my will and desire that the remainder of my estate, real, personal and mixed, descend to and be divided among my heirs at law in common and equal parts according to their respective rights under the law.

ITEM 4th--It is my will and desire that my executors herein after appointed, shall have the possession, custody and control of all the moneys in their hands, or which may come to their hands, and which may belong to my following named grand children (viz.) Jane Elizabeth Myers. 2nd:-Judith Ann Gist. 3rd:--Wm. Thomas Gist. 4th:-Mary Viola Gist. 5th--and Helen Gist, to loan out on good security until they and each of them become of lawful age.

I hereby appoint Abraham Hunter of Scott County, Isaac Hunter of New Madrid County and Thomas Hunter of Mississippi County, as executors of this my last will and testament.

William Myers

Witnesses: A.S. Henderson
R. Bay Wade

DOCUMENTS FROM THE ESTATE PAPERS OF Wm. MYERS,

WHO DIED AT BENTON, MO., JAN. 2, 1861

INVENTORY OF SLAVES:

"One negro woman named Violet, aged sixty years; one negro man named Abram, aged thirty-three years; one negro man named Bob, aged Twenty-seven years; one negro man named Henry, aged twenty-five years; one negro man named Fred, aged eighteen years; one negro girl named Mary Jane, aged nine years, and one negro boy named Tom, aged five years."

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY:

"One grindstone; one lot of Blacksmith tools & old irons; three grass scythes; one cradle & Scythe; one froe; one grain shovel; four bells; three augers; one handsaw; two whipsaws; one cross-cut saw; seventeen plows; one lot of charcoal; one ox wagon; one carriage; one buggy; one cart; twelve head of sheep; two yoke of oxen; five mules; three head of horses; six cows & calves; six head of stock cattle; forty-four head of hogs & pigs; three lots of corn in the husk; one lot of fodder; two stands of bees; one piece of leather; ten bedsteads, beds and bedding; fifteen stool bottom chairs; two rocking chairs; five dining tables; three stands; two bureaus; one desk; two gilt frame looking glasses; four plaster of paris mantel ornaments; one lot of old books; two leather trunks; one buffalo robe; one chest; one brass fire screen & one pair of 'Brass hand irons;' one lot of cupboard ware; one cook stove & furniture; one cupboard; one clock; one hair trunk; one 'Konk' (conch) shell; one man's saddle; one bridle; two ropes; one steel mill; two beef hides; two sheep hides; one deer skin; four chopping axes; two spades, and four sets of plow gear.

NOTES & BONDS:

L.S. Green, Hartwell Brock, H. Winchester, Solomon Seaford, Benedict Scherer, Chas. Cook, Thomas Hunter, James C. Rice and Caleb and Drury

Pricket owed William Myers on notes (10% interest), bills, etc., a total of $2,561.09

TAX RECEIPT:

"Received of Nathaniel W. Watkins, administrator of the estate of Wm. Myers, deceased, one hundred and forty-six dollars and eighty-seven cents, in full for state and county tax for the year 1862, and state, county & military tax for the year 1863, on personal estate and the following land:

27.98 acres, NW SW frac. Sec. 13, Twp. 28,R 13

39.96 acres, N frac. SE frac. Sec. 13, Twp. 28, R 13

110.98 acres, part of NE frac. Sec. 13, Twp. 28, R 13

40 acres, SE NW, Sec. 12, Twp. 28, R W 13

40 acres, NE SW, Sec. 12, Twp. 28, R 13

40 acres, SE SE, Sec. 12, Twp. 28, R 13

40 acres, SE SW, Sec. 20, Twp. 28, R 13

40 acres, SW SE, Sec. 20, Twp. 28, R 13

40 acres, NE NW, Sec. 29, Twp. 28, R 13

255 acres, part of Survey 638, Twp. 28, R 13

50 acres, part of Survey 13, Twp. 28, R 15

80 acres NE SE & SE NE, Sec. 8, Twp.27, R 15

77.96 acres, E½ of NW frac., Sec. 24, Twp. 28, R 13

32.38 acres, W½ NE frac, Sec. 24, Twp. 28, R 13

41.96 acres, S½ Lot 3 NW, Sec. 18, Twp. 28, R. 14

30.13 acres, SE frac. NE frac., Sec. 20, Twp. 28, R 15

LOTS IN BENTON: 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, 21, 25, 26, 29, 66, 73, 77, 85, 93 and 67.

LOTS IN COMMERCE: 108, 110, 113, 114, 63, 64, 55, 56, 57, 76, 30, 31 58, 59 & 60. Also Out Lot 14, containing 24½ acres."

LOCATIONS OF SOME OF MYERS' EXTENSIVE LAND HOLDINGS

What was reputedly the Myers mansion was torn down only a decade or two ago. According to Mr. Harold Bollinger it was located south of Benton in a field bordering the old road between Benton and Lambertville. This would place it on Myers' 41.96-acre tract, the description of which is given in the tax receipt document as the S½ of Lot 3, in the NW¼ of Section 18, Township 28 N., Range 15 E.

The 255-acre tract in Survey 638 was a part of the old Charles Friend Spanish land grant on the southwestern edge of Benton.

His three fractional Section 13, Township 28, Range 13 tracts were located around his Survey 638 property; and one of them, that containing 110.98 acres, extended into the southern edge of Benton, and probably surrounded the cemetery where Myers was buried, and where a large double monument now marks his and his wife, Nancy's, graves.

Two of Myers' Section 12, Twp. 28, R 13 tracts bordered Benton on the west and southwest, while the third tract, SE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 12, includes what is now the southeastern corner of Benton.

His Survey 13 acreage was located on the west bank of the Mississippi, and was a part of the old Reazon Bowie-Charles Findley Spanish land grant.

It is interesting to note, too, that he had retained ownership of 15 lots in Benton. These were located on the southern and northern edges of the original town.

Two of his 15 Commerce lots were located in the residential section on Tywappity Street, facing the courthouse square. The others were in outlying blocks north, west and south of the main part of town.

WERE WILLIAM MYERS AND THOMAS HOUTS

BROTHERS-IN-LAW ?

Information obtained for me by Mrs. Doris Wilson, of Sunnyvale, California, from the genealogy library of the Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, indicates that Thomas Houts, of Washington County, Kentucky, married Sarah Myers on March 19, 1806, and that William Myers, also of Washington County, Ky., married Caroline Grundy on Sept. 1, 1795; also that Polly Grundy, sister of Caroline, married William Rutter in 1807.

All of these families, of course, showed up in the Benton area at an early date. John P. Rutter, in fact, was the first clerk of the County Court of Scott County, serving from 1822 to 1828.

Since the William Myers buried in the Benton cemetery was born in 1783, and married a woman whose first name was Nancy, he obviously could not have been the William Myers who married Caroline Grundy in 1795. However, if we suppose the William Myers in question to have been the father of the William Myers born in 1783, and that his 1795 marriage to Caroline Grundy was a second marriage, then the dates and facts would jibe; and as we have indicated elsewhere, there is documentary evidence on record at Benton indicating that, in the 1820s, there was a William Myers, senior, in the county, and by inference, a William Myers, Jr. In addition, Kentucky tax records for 1790 show a William Myers, then residing in Fayette County, very near the Washington County line, to have been a property-owning tax payer at that time.

And as to Myers' "Indian fighting," that might well have applied to either William, Sr., or William, Jr., as there were Indian skirmishes around the Washington County blockhouses in the period 1774 to 1790,

where William, Sr., might have served in a position of leadership, and, in the War of 1812, there was an Ensign William Myers in the 7th Company of Dudley's Regiment of Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia that was organized on Sept. 20, 1814. The latter, of course, if one of our William Myers, would have had to have been William, Jr.

Obviously some of the foregoing is still in the realm of speculation, but the fact that the Myers, Houts and Rutters all came to the Benton area at an early date, most certainly is not, and is suggestive that there was more than a casual or accidental connection between their settling at that place at that particular time.

Too, it should not be forgotten that a Sarah Houts signed the Houts' heirs deed made Oct. 1, 1844, wherein they transferred land adjoining Benton to Alexander Giboney and Anthony T. Search. Whether this Sarah was the Sarah Myers who married Thomas Houts, or a namesake daughter, the name is probably not without significance in this case.

The William Myers, Senior, deeds mentioned above are as follows:

Reuben Carr to William Myers, Sr., deed dated Dec. 20, 1826, involving the sale of lots in Commerce. Recorded on page 63 of Warranty Deed Book No. 2.

Alexander Chiles to William Myers, Sr., deed dated Feb. 27, 1828, involving the sale of Lot 108 and Outlot 14 in the town of Commerce. Recorded on page 96 of Warranty Deed Book No. 2.

I suspect that William Myers, Sr., died not too long after the latter of these two deeds was made, probably about 1830. However, because of the destruction during the Civil War of our Probate Court records this will be extremely difficult to verify.

OWNERSHIP OF LOTS IN BENTON IN 1870

Assessed Value

Lots 1 & 2, R. Bay Wade $15 each

Lot 3, Louis Blumenberg $75

Lot 4, Wm. H. McKnight $700

Lot 5, Thomas Brown $15

Lot 6, Fricke & Ballentine $15

Lot 7, Albion Crow estate $15

Lot 8, Fricke & Ballentine $15

Lots 9, 10, 11 & 12, Daniel H. Leedy $15 each

Lot 13, Thomas Brown $15

Lots 14 & 15, Fricke & Ballentine $15 each

Lot 16, Elvira Launius $250

Lot 17, Wm. H. McKnight $30

Lot 18, James A. Hill $400

Lots 19 & 20, R. Bay Wade $375 & $20
(Assessed value of Lot 19, in 1867, $400)

Lot 21, Thomas Cason $20

Lots 22 & 23, James A. Hill $20 & $75

Lot 24, Wm. H. McKnight $250

Lot 25, Wm. Myers or Legal Representatives ($20)

Lot 26, PARSONAGE

Lot 27, Howson Hooe $15

Lots 28, 29, 30, 31 & 32, Dan'l. H. Leedy
$15, $15, $15, $200, $200.

Lot 33, The County

Lot 34, Howson Hooe $225

Lots 35 & 36, Fricke & Ballentine $20 each

N½ Lot 37, Benjamin F. Allen $180

S½ of Lot 37, Dr. Alex. S. Henderson $15.

Lots 38 & 39, Albion Crow estate $20 each

Assessed Value

Lot 40, R. Bay Wade $20

Lot 41, The County $20

Lot 42, Levi S. Greene $20

Lot 43, Benj. F. Allen $20

N. prt. Lot 44, Levi S. Greene $350

S. prt. Lot 44, Wm. Robertson $350

Lot 45, Elizabeth Crow $20

Lot 46, Eveline Robertson $225

E½ Lot 47, Parrott & Crow or legal representatives. $15

W½ Lot 47, The County

Lots 48, Howson Hooe $15

Lot 49, The County $15

E½ Lot 50, Parrott & Crow or their legal representatives $15

W½ Lot 50, Levi S. Greene $80

Lot 51, Wm. A. Hughes $200

Lot 52, Elizabeth Crow $250

Lot 53, Levi S. Green $150

Prt. of Lot 54, Levi S. Green $10

Prt. of Lot 54, Joseph Anderson $1

Lots 55, 56, W½ & 58, Levi Green $20 each

Lot 57, SCHOOL

Lot 59, Millie Brown $175

Lot 60, William Hayden $400

SE. Prt. of Lot 61, James F. Allen $15.

Prt. of Lot 61, R. Bay Wade $60

Lot 62, R. Bay Wade $175

Lot 63, Elizabeth Crow $20

Lot 64, R. Bay Wade $450

Assessed Value

Lot 65, Levi S. Green $450

Lots 66 & 67, John H. Robenold $15 each

Lot 68, Levi S. Green $80

Lot 69, R. Bay Wade $100

Lot 70, Wm. H. McCormick $300

Lots 71 & 72, R. Bay Wade $20 each

Lot 73, John T. Anderson $20

Lot 74, Levi S. Green $20

Lot 75, John T. Anderson $20

Lot 76, Levi S. Green $20

Lots 78 & 79, Joseph T. Anderson. Lot 78, $500, Lot 79, $20

Lot 80, Elizabeth Crow $20

Lot 81, James Parrott or Leg. Repr. $20

Lot 82, Elizabeth Crow $20

Lot 83, Wm. H. McCormick $50

Lot 84, Joseph H. Moore $15

Lot 85, Wm. H. Robertson $15

Lots 86 & 87, Joseph H. Robenold $15 each

Lot 88, Wm. H. Robertson $300

Lot 89, Jervis B. Walker $20

Lot 90, Alex. S. Henderson $300

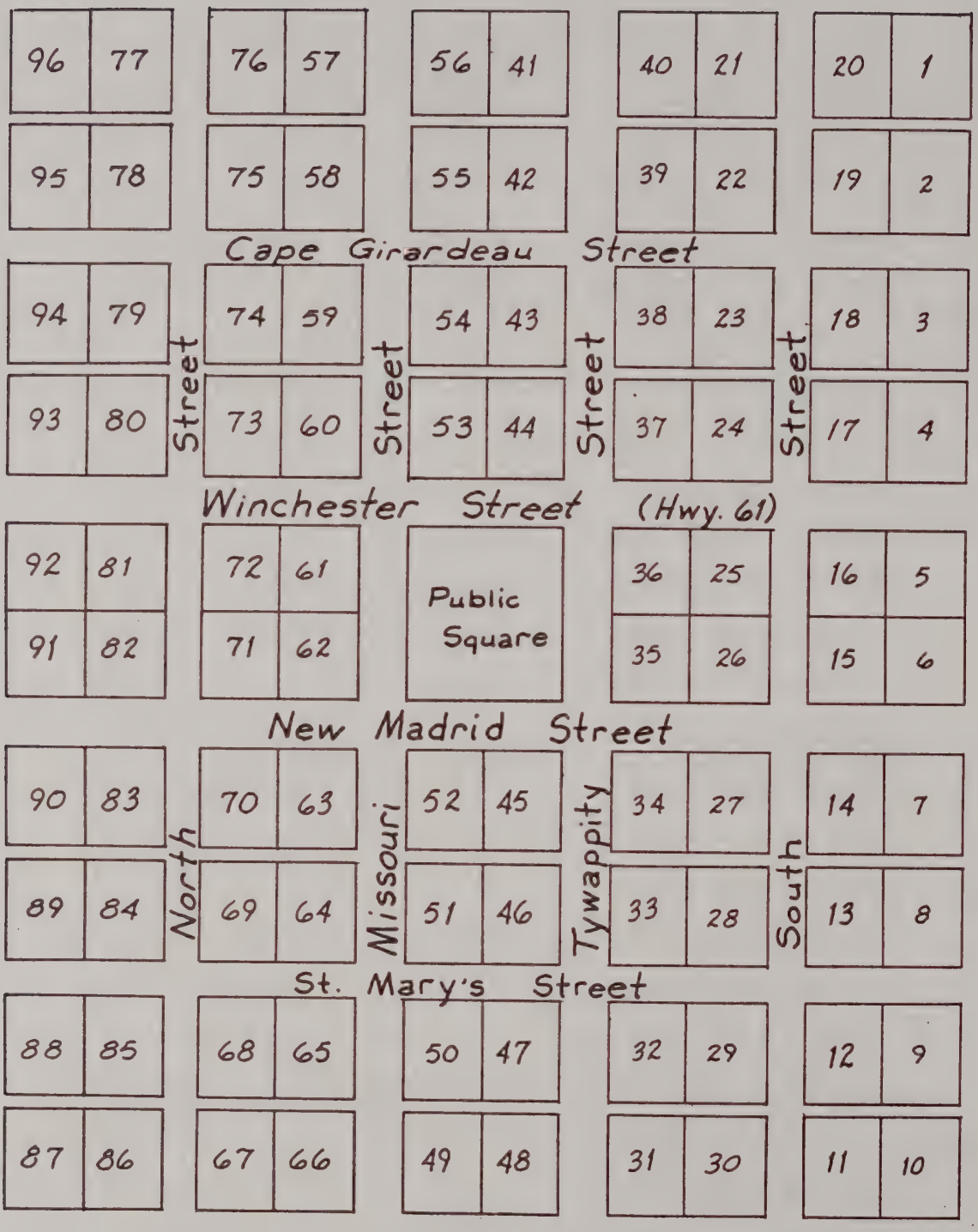
Lots 91 & 92, James Parrott or Legal Repr. $20 each

Lot 93, Wm. Myers or Legal Representative $20

Lots 94 & 95, John T. Anderson $20 each

Lot 96, Jervis B. Walker $20.

The town in 1870 appears to have had about 30 buildings. Six of these were valued at less than $100, so must have been barns, poultry houses, decayed log cabins or cheap board and batten shacks. The most highly valued building ($700) was that on Lot 4, owned by Wm. H. McKnight.



Original Plat of the Town of BENTON

(Lots sold Oct. 16, 1822)

Prepared by
B. Hirtz - 12/83

THE DANNY JOE BROCK HOME ON LOT 19 IN BENTON, MO.

Danny Joe and his father, Wade Brock, were kind enough to allow me to examine the abstract to this place, which is located at the southeast corner of Cape Girardeau and South streets.

Lot 19 is in the 35 3/10 acres of the original town of Benton that is located in the northeast fractional quarter of Section 13, Township 28 N., Range 13 E. The abstract indicates that William Myers received a U.S. land patent for this tract on June 16, 1838, but did not file it with the county recorder until Dec. 12, 1850.

Lot 19 was sold to Dr. John S. Gaulden in 1839 for $20. In 1841 Gaulden sold the lot to William Myers for $20. In 1853 William Myers transferred Lot 19 to Dr. Robert Bay Wade, the price in this case being $30, indicating that the lot was still vacant when Dr. Wade bought it.

On Nov. 1, 1866 Dr. Wade borrowed $125 from the county school fund, giving a mortgage on his Benton lot to secure the loan, which suggests there was a building there at that time. Further indication of this is that the assessed value of the place was placed at $400 in 1867. And since it is not likely that the house was constructed during the Civil War, it would appear that it dates back to the period 1854 to 1861.

On Dec. 31, 1872 Dr. Wade sold Lot 19 to Jacob S. Sparks for $522.50, which again indicates quite clearly that a house had been constructed on it.

On Nov. 20, 1882 Jacob S. Sparks sold Lot 19 to Richard S. Sparks, and the price this time was $800.

The house today does not appear to have been altered externally since it was constructed some 125 years ago, and I might add, is in structurally sound condition at the present time, and quite attractive, despite its age.

Dr. Wade was a prominent man in Scott County in the period 1860 to 1880. He owned a great deal of property in the county, and from 1872 to 1876, represented us in the State Legislature.

William Myers, for some strange reason, neglected to patent most of his land in Section 12, as well as that in Section 13, until the 1830s. Government records show that he received patents for the NE¼ of the SW¼ of Sec. 12 on June 25, 1835, for the SE¼ of the NW¼ of Sec. 12 on Feb. 22, 1836, and for the SE¼ of the SW¼ of Sec. 12 on Jan. 25, 1838; all of these tracts being in Township 28 N., R 13 E.

LAST WILL OF ELIZABETH JOHNSON, A WIDOW LADY OF BENTON, MISSOURI

April 13, 1847

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Elizabeth Johnson, now of the County of Scott and State of Missouri--being weak in body but of sound and disposing mind--Knowing the uncertainty of this life and the certainty of death, do make and publish this my last will and testament.

First after my decease I consign my body to the mother earth and commend my Soul to the Allmighty who gave it.

Secondly, my will is that all my honest debts be paid.

Thirdly, I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Ann Hunter forever, the houses and lot on which I now reside, lying in the town of Benton, being the same lot of land and houses formerly owned by Dr. Golden (one of the two first physicians in Benton), and conveyed to me by Albion Crow & Wife. I also bequeath to said grand daughter Ann all my beds and bedding, and all my household and kitchen furniture. I also give and bequeath to my said grand daughter Ann my negro girl Mary and my black boy named Sam, both slaves for life.

I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Maria Hunter, sister of said Ann, my two negro girls. One named Lella, being a mulatto, the other of said negro girls, named Filis, both slaves for life, to hold the same to said Maria forever.

And my will is that all the moneys I shall or may die in possession of, and I may have loaned out, and all debts and demands due me, may be collected and loaned out to the best advantage on good security during the life of my daughter Elizabeth Crow, and the interest arising from the loan of said moneys to be applied annually to the personal use and benefit of my said daughter Elizabeth during her

natural life--and after the decease of my said daughter Elizabeth Crow, my will is that all of the principal of said monies, so to be loaned out, shall be equally divided between my said two grand daughters, Maria and Ann, the children of my said daughter Elizabeth by her former husband, Joseph Hunter, deceased.

In witness whereof I have this day Signed and Sealed and published this my last will and testament this 13 day of April A.D. 1847."

Elizabeth her X mark Johnson

In the presence of

N.P. Maulsby

Wm. S. Mosely (of New Madrid County.

Mrs. Johnson's son-in-laws, Albion Crow and Joseph Hunter, were both prominent in the affairs of Benton and Scott County. Crow held numerous county offices, and at the time of the onset of the Civil War was county treasurer. During the war he moved to Tennessee. After the war he went to New Orleans, where he established a large commission house operation. He died there of yellow fever on Sept. 15, 1867. Crow was a dedicated Confederate, and as the outbreak of the war became evident, sold much of his extensive Scott County land holdings, including 40 acres adjoining the New York pottery and village.

Joseph Hunter was one of Benton's early merchants, and built the first frame building in the town to house his mercantile establishment. His daughter Maria, mentioned in Mrs. Johnson's will, married Major James Parrott, 8th Missouri Cavalry, Confederate Army. His other daughter, Ann, married Joseph H. Moore, prominent Scott County attorney and

landowner of Commerce. Mr. Moore also established the first abstract office in the county.

Joseph Hunter died about 1840, some ten years after he had opened his store in Benton. After his death, Albion Crow, through marrying Hunter's widow, acquired this store and formed a partnership with a man named McCrary, who operated the business.

Subsequent research has revealed a deed made by Dr. John S. Goulden to Albion Crow. This document, dated Feb. 14, 1843, shows that Crow paid Dr. Goulden $381.60 for a house located on lot number 70 in the town of Benton. This would place Mrs. Johnson's house on the southwest corner of North and New Madrid streets, or, approximately one block NNW of the courthouse.

THE PARROTTS, WOODSON & JAMES, FATHER AND SON

The lives, the real estate and personal property of Woodson and James Parrott will be examined in some detail, not because of their relationship to Mrs. Johnson, but because they reveal a type of life and culture that has gone from among us forever. From these documents we can learn what a well-to-do plantation owner had in his home, what kind of farming implements he used, and by inference, the kind of life he lived.

And from his son, a promising young Scott County businessman, we can learn something of the price he paid for supporting what was destined to be a "Lost Cause." How his considerable holdings were largely lost, and something of the hardships his wife and family had to endure after the war.

Woodson Parrott died less than three years before the onset of the Civil War, at a time when Scott County's plantation owners were enjoying their last period of peace, tranquillity and prosperity. [redacted]

And the degree and nature of this prosperity, I believe, can best be ~~and nature of this prosperity was~~ shown by the following itemized lists and values of the property owned by Woodson Parrott at the time of his death in 1858.

The first list is a "sale-bill of the personal property of the estate of Woodson Parrott, late of the County of Scott; sold on the 29th day of October, A.D. 1858, by James Parrott, Executor of said estate."

Articles Sold	Price	Name of Purchaser
1 large auger	70¢	James B. Ancell
1 1-inch auger	30¢	J.W. Purcell
1 3/4 inch auger	25¢	John Ancell
1 Tenant (tenon?) Saw	55¢	J.W. Purcell
1 handsaw	30¢	J.W. Purcell
2 draw knives	45¢	Steve Glasser
2 planes	30¢	James Parrott
3 chisels & 1 file	35¢	Lawrence Brankle
1 froe	45¢	John ~~Schipfer (Schaefert)~~ Schaefer
1 ring & staple & stilyard	50¢	Jacob Weismueller
Hammer & Wrench	40¢	John Ancell
1 hand axe	30¢	A. Shaw
Sheep shear & seive	35¢	Max Jehlen
1 crosscut saw	$4.	A.G. English
3 clevises	$1.	James Parrott
2 clevises	45¢	James Parrott
1 lot of horse shoes	25¢	Frederick Oupman
Plow iron & colter	5¢	Frederick Oupman
2 iron wedges	70¢	George Blattel
2 iron wedges	45¢	Joseph H. Moore
1 log chain	85¢	James Wyatt

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
1 log chain	95¢	Jacob Weismueller
1 log chain	$1.45	Joseph H. Moore
1 stretcher chain	35¢	Michael Gochea (Gosche?)
1 spade	20¢	George Zeigler
1 grubbing hoe	40¢	Michael Gochea
2 grubbing hoes	$1.95	A.G. English
1 jack screw	$1.00	James Parrott
1 tar bucket, jug & tar	15¢	Nicholas Welter
3 axes	20¢	Jacob Ribble(?)
3 axes	45¢	James Parrott
3 axes	55¢	James Ancell
1 axe	80¢	A. Shaw
4 weeding hoes	70¢	James Ancell
1 weeding hoe	75¢	A.G. English
1 lot of old iron	50¢	A.G. English
1 pair (harness) gearing	75¢	John Ancell
2 pair of gearing	$1.40	James Ancell
2 pair gearing	85¢	John Ancell
2 horse collars	85¢	James Ancell
1 horse collar	40¢	James Norrid
1 saddle--	60¢	Lawrence Brankle
1 saddle	$1.50	Peter Anderly (Enderle?)
1 side saddle & bridle	$11.00	A.G. English
1 plow	$2.30	Joseph H. Moore
1 plow	$2.75	A.G. English
1 plow	$2.80	Andrew Schaefer
1 plow	$4.00	Lawrence Brankle

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
1 plow	$3.15	Wolf Weber (Wolfgang?)
1 plow	75¢	Mike Schaefer
3 plows	$1.30	John Ancell
1 harrow	$3.00	George Blattel
1 scythe and cradle	$2.05	A.G. English
1 scythe & cradle	$2.50	Albion Crow
1 scythe & cradle	$2.80	A.G. English
1 snead (scythe handle)	30¢	John Ancell
1 mowing scythe	$1.20	John H. Ranney
1 "waggon"	$25.00	Nelson Ellis
1 cart	$5.00	A.G. English
2 baskets	15¢	Henry Ancell
25 wheat sacks	$1.25	James Parrott
25 wheat sacks	$1.35	A.G. English
17 wheat sacks	$1.10	James Parrott
1 bee gum	65¢	Henry Ancell
1 bee gum	$2.70	Charles Hendricks
1 bee gum	90¢	Joseph Dohogne
1 bee gum	$2.10	Joseph Daugherty
1 yoke of oxen, young	$41.00	Price Camster
1 yoke of oxen, old	$35.00	William Kirk
1 stack of hay	$1.25	James Parrott
1 stack of hay	$12.10	A.G. English
1 stack of hay	$10.00	Dr. Alexander Waugh
1 "Black head cow"	$15.50	Maximillian Jehlen
1 bell & cow & calf	$15.25	Joseph Seyer
1 bull	$10.30	James Ancell

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
1 black yearling	$4.50	Wm. Kirk
1 brindle cow & calf	$19.25	A.P. Goddard
1 white faced cow & calf	$15.50	Henry Schoen
1 pair of young steers	$22.25	Max Jehlen
1 pair of young steers	$16.05	Henry Ancell
1 brindle side cow	$15.75	D. Abbey
1 "Blackside" cow	$14.50	James Ancell
1 dark red heifer	$11.00	John Ancell
1 cow & young calf	$19.95	George Blattel
10 head of hogs, first choice	$20.75	Henry Schoen
10 head of hogs, 2nd choice	$13.25	Joseph H. Moore
1 bay mare	$30.25	Alexander Waugh
1 black horse	$27.25	James Hollingshead
1 bay colt	$82.00	James Parrott
1 bay mare	$30.00	William Winchester
1 roan mare	$80.50	Lewis H. Tanner
1 black mare	$73.25	James West
5 jars	75¢	James Parrott
1 lantern & 4 jugs	15¢	George Zeigler
1 basket	20¢	James Parrott
1 pair of scales	40¢	Cash
2 sad irons	60¢	Charles Ford
1 lot of sundries	$1.00	John Ancell
1 grindstone	25¢	John Ancell
1 grindstone	$1.40	James Parrott
1 bed & bedding	$13.00	Joseph H. Moore

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
1 bedstead	$2.80	Mrs. Terry
1 "truckle" bedstead, bed & bedding	$9.75	Steve Glasser
1 bed & bedding	$14.10	A.G. English
1 bedstead	$2.80	Charles Fetter
1 counterpane	$2.00	James Parrott
1 bed & bedding	$17.00	James Parrott
1 bedstead	$2.30	Peter Vogt
1 bed & bedding	$15.50	Charles Hendricks
1 bedstead	60¢	Charles Fetter
1 quilt	50¢	Frederick Oupman
3 quilts	$5.85	Charles Hendricks
1 quilt	40¢	James Parrott
1 quilt	$2.45	A.G. English
1 quilt	$5.05	James Parrott
1 coverlid	$1.75	James Parrott
1 coverlid	$2.05	Charles Hendricks
1 coverlid	$3.30	A.G. English
1 coverlid	$2.55	E. Clure
1 coverlid	$2.05	E. Clure
1 coverlid	$2.35	James Parrott
1 blanket	$2.95	James Parrott
1 sheet	25¢	Wolf Weber
1 bolster	75¢	James Parrott
1 dinner table & cloth	$4.25	James Parrott
1 Breakfast Table	$3.60	A.G. English
1 washbowl & pitcher	65¢	A.G. English
4 dishes	35¢	Jacob Weismueller

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
2 pitchers	35¢	J.W. Purcell
6 cups & saucers	25¢	C. Fetter
4 dishes	$1.15	Jacob Weismueller
1 coffee mill	30¢	Mike Gosche
1 sugar bowl	15¢	P.E. Ancell
4 large plates	30¢	Mr. Terry
Knives & Forks	35¢	Peter Vogt
1 stand and castor	35¢	A.G. English
2 cups & 3 saucers	10¢	James Parrott
1 set of plates & 2 dishes	$1.05	A.G. English
1 clock	5¢	A.G. English
2 brass candlesticks	60¢	A.G. English
1 looking glass	$1.30	A.G. English
1 dozen glass tumblers	$3.00	A.G. English
6 ~~dozen~~ glass tumblers	75¢	James Parrott
4 glass tumblers & 2 pitchers	50¢	James Parrott
6 Silver Spoons	$2.50	James Parrott
1 small looking glass	15¢	Frederick Oupman
1 press (closet with shelves)	$11.60	A.G. English
1 bureau	$5.60	A.G. English
2 table cloths	$1.00	A.G. English
3 table cloths	$2.10	A.G. English
2 sheets	60¢	L. Brankle
3 sheets	$1.25	James Parrott
1 pair of linen towels	40¢	A.G. English
1 pair of linen towels	40¢	James Parrott
1 pair of worked pillowslips	$1.20	James Parrott

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
2 pieces of quilt patchwork	$6.00	James Parrott
Lot of window curtains	$1.50	A.G. English
6 split bottom chairs	$1.25	Mrs. Terry
Razor, strap & soap cup	$1.00	James Parrott

Total amount of sales--$1,529.51

About 49 different people bid in items at this sale, suggesting that it was attended by a large crowd. Probably it was a pleasant occasion, as most sales are. But the thought occurred to me that in less than three years, a goodly number of these men, close neighbors and presumably friendly ones, would be involved in a great conflict in which they would try to kill each other. Some even would become officers in the opposing forces involved in this conflict. James Parrot would serve as a major in a Confederate unit (8th Mo. Cavalry), Alexander Waugh, Jr., would become a captain in that same unit, and Daniel Abbey would become a major in the Home Guards, supporting the Union.

Article	Price Paid	Name of Purchaser
2 pieces of calico work	$6.00	James Barrett
Window Curtains	$1.50	A.G. English
6 split bottom chairs	$1.25	Mrs. Terry
Razor, strap & cup	$1.00	James Barrett

Total Sales $1,525.61

ITEMS APPRAISED BUT NOT SOLD AT SALE

21 head of cattle, 37 head of sheep, "about" 100 head of hogs, about 40 geese, one lot of turkeys, one lot of chickens, two wheat fans, one thresher, 3 grain shovels, one lot of turnips, one lot of Irish potatoes, one lot of Stave timber, 200 lbs. of bacon, one lot of vegetables, 4 window blinds, 2 spurs, 1 rifle gun, 1 shotgun, 2 sleds, 1 sack of wool, one lot of books, 1 barrel & soap, 1 lot of stoneware, one barrel and soap grease, 3 barrels & feathers, 1 pair of warping bars (weaving), 1 spinning wheel, 1 lot of cast (iron) ware, 2 painted buckets, 1 tin cup, 1 keeler (a dishpan or tub), 2 wash pans, 1 cake pan, 1 sieve, 2 trays, 1 pot trammel (hook used for hanging pots over fire in fireplace). 3 jars of lard

1 lot of oats, 1 lot of wheat, 1 lot of old corn, 1 lot of tobacco, 55 acres of corn in the field, one lot of fodder

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SLAVES & THEIR VALUE

Jude (female)	$300	Micajah (man)	$1,000
Mary & child	$1,000	Bet	$300
America	$1,000	Altha	$1,000
Jarrett (boy)	$900	Adaline	$500
George	$350	Jim	$1,200

Appraised value of slaves--$7,550.00

Land Holdings of Woodson Parrott

Woodson Parrott's home plantation contained 280 acres located in Sections 19 and 20 beginning about a mile and a quarter south of Kelso. The actual tracts, obtained under land patents, were NE¼ of the NE¼ Section 20; SE¼ of the SE¼ Section 19; W½ of the SW¼ of Section 20; SW¼ of the NW¼ Section 20; NW¼ of the NW¼ Section 20, and SE¼ of the NE¼ & NE¼ of the SE¼ Section 19; all in Township 29 N, Range 14 E.

In addition, he held receipts for the purchase of 320 acres of swamp land, 80 acres of which was just east of the present Cape Girardeau airport, and the remainder in the lowlands SE. of Benton.

MAJOR JAMES PARROTT, son of Woodson Parrott, was born Feb. 29, 1826, and died at Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 13, 1864. Tradition has it that a slave was sent to Little Rock for his body, which was brought home and interred in the family cemetery on the Woodson Parrott plantation, on a part of it now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Glastetter.

[redacted]

Although James Parrott was only 35 years old when the Civil War began, he had already amassed a considerable amount of property and was obviously was well along toward becoming one of the wealthier and more prominent businessmen in the county.

He had acquired 959 acres of land just north of the future site of Morley. This included 174 acres of the old Spanish Land Grant, Survey 639, originally claimed by John Friend.

He also had obtained title to 400 acres of what was termed "swamp land," althought it was located in Sections 14, 15 and 22, in Township 28, Range 14, southwest of Benton.

In Benton itself he owned Lots 81, 82, 91 and 92, comprising an entire block, which was the second block north of the court house, on Winchester Street, now also Highway 61.

By the time the war started young Parrott had a mill in operation on this site. In addition, he and Moses Baker and Benjamin B. Gaither had purchased Lot No. 107 in Commerce, and in 1858 had erected a mill and a grain buying establishment on it. Lot 107 is located on the east side of Missouri Street, and is the 2nd lot on that street south of Spring Street.

James' participation in the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy had disastrous consequences. Early in the war Union forces burnt his mill at Benton. His mill at Commerce appears to have been destroyed, too, although one of his partners, Benjamin Gaither, bought grain there and sold most of it to the government.

Of the many debts owing to him at the start of the war, $2,260.90 remained unpaid in 1865 when his estate was being settled. Principal debtors were Dr. R. Bay Wade, $129; James K. and Alexander Waugh,Sr., $100, on a debt incurred April 14, 1858; J.N. and Benjamin Benifield, $600, which involved a note dated Feb. 5, 1861, and a debt of $350 involving an order from P.C. Burgess on James Stanley.

Parrott's debts, on the other hand, totaled $14,123.03, the largest of which was a debt of $8,835.35 owed to John Bird. Possibly some of these debts were incurred to support his family while he was on duty in the Confederate army.

His estate was administered by his brother-in-law, Joseph H. Moore, an attorney at Commerce. One of Moore's first actions as administrator was to dispose of Parrott's one-third interest in Lot 107 in Commerce, which he sold to Leonard Caffenberger for $140.

We know, too, from the estate papers of James Parrott's wife, Maria (Hunter) Parrott, who died early in the year 1909, that Moore was also able to retain the Morley area land for her. But the income from this must have been miniscule, for the sale of her household effects netted only $43.85, which included a King Heater heating stove, which I recall as the cheapest and lightest brand of heating stove that could be bought. They were made of thin sheet steel, and got red hot in a moment, and ice-cold in an equally short time.

There was a $1,000 life insurance policy, though, and perhaps that made possible the purchase of tombstones for herself, and James, whose grave had not previously been marked, and also for their two children. The bill for the four gravestones, incidentally, was $410, and for her funeral, including casket and hearse, $50.

She and James, both scions of well-to-do families, had paid a

high price for the support they had given the "Lost Cause."

The final sad note of this saga came on March 12, 1866, when William Burgess, a merchant at Commerce, filed suit in the Circuit Court of Scott County, seeking $5,000 in damages from James McMullen, administrator of the estate of Charles Vaughn, deceased; Joseph Moore, administrator of the estate of James Parrott, deceased; James Boutwell, Columbus Norman, John Friend, Elisha Evans, William Kirk, William Norman, John Cox, Edward Coleman, Kelly Boutwell, Alexander Boutwell, John Henderson, Joseph Cox and Elisha Boutwell, members of a Confederate raiding party that had removed merchandise from Burgess' store during a raid that took place on October 19, 1862.

Actual charges made by Burgess, the plaintiff, were as follows:

"Plaintiff states that in the month of October, 1862 he was owner and in possession of a large stock of goods, wares & merchandise situate in the town of Commerce, Scott Co., Mo., consisting in part of hats, caps, boots, shoes, sugar, coffee, tea, oils, pepper, spice, saws, hatchets, axes, chains, ropes, buckets, tubs, hardware, knives, forks, spoons, plates, dishes, clothing, calico, gingham & other dress goods, alpach, muslins, flannels, satins, cashmeres & other woolen goods. Ribbons, combs, bonnets, sild handkerchiefs, thread, buttons & other notions of the value of three thousand dollars.

That defendants and others, being an unlawful body of armed men, raiding and robbing the peaceable inhabitants thereof, did then and there wrongfully enter into said storehouse by force of arms, and against the will of the plaintiff, seize, take and carry away said stock of goods and convert them to their own use without paying anything for them. Which goods defendants have wholly failed to return, or any part thereof.

Plaintiff says by the acts and doings of aforesaid defendants,

plaintiff is damaged in the sum of five thousand dollars, and for which plaintiff asks payment."

Before the case was concluded Burgess added the name of Wilson Wiley, deceased, to those accused in this matter.

Two of the defendants, Columbus and William Norman, swore that they had not "knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief whether plaintiff in the month of October, 1862. was the owner and in possession of a large stock of goods, wares and merchandise in the town of Commerce, of the value of three thousand dollars, as alledged by the plaintiff."

"Defendants further answering," denied "that they with others were an unlawful body of armed men roaming and robbing the peaceful inhabitants, and deny that they or either of them then and there wrongfully entered into said store house and seized, took and carried away said stock of goods and converted them to their own use; and deny that they, either of them, ~~have~~ had damaged plaintiff in the sum of five thousand dollars, or any amount as plaintiff ~~hath~~ had alledged, and ask to be discharged with costs."

Signed: Thomas B. English, Attorney for the defendants

The verdict, as rendered on Oct. 3, 1866, was that the defendants would pay the costs of the case.

This is an unusual case, in that the unit involved would appear to have been a legitimate one, an official part of the Army of the Confederacy. Also in that the people involved were personally acquainted; in fact, as you will recall, P.C. Burgess, in all probability a relative of William, had done business with young Parrott, and in 1865 still owed Parrott's heirs $350 of a debt incurred in 1861.

THE LANE-PRICE RIVER LANDING

Lane's Landing, as it was originally known, was located on Spanish grant survey number 2848, which Samuel Adams claimed under Dr. Samuel Dorsey. John Lane purchased this land early in the 1800s and retained ownership of it until his death about the year 1833. On March 31, 1834, his son, Robert Lane sold this tract to Archibald A. Price for $1,075. All of it appears now to have been washed into the Mississippi River, and the present Price's Landing grain terminal must, consequently, be located to the west of the original tract and landing.

There is early mention of Lane's Landing, beginning about 1825, and, we know from a County Court record entry dated July 29, 1856, that it was even then sometimes referred to as Lane's Landing.

Mostly, though, by that time it was called Price's Landing, and we have seen mention of it during the Civil War era of it under that name.

Under either name it was never a platted town or village. From some time before the Civil War, and up until about the turn of the century, there was a store, or trading post, and warehouse there. And after the demise of West Philadelphia all of the grain and produce of this fertile area was handled by the Prices or whoever happened to own the port facilities at that time. Even in the 1880s there would often be long lines of grain wagons waiting to be unloaded and stored for shipment.

The editors of the 1875 edition of "Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri" show a store and warehouse there at that time. No estimate of population is given, but in "Wilson's Gazetteer & Directory of Southeast Missouri" the landing is estimated to have had a population of 25, but no postoffice.

However, as to the latter, Wilson was wrong, for there was a postoffice at Price's Landing. It was opened Feb. 1, 1859, with Archibald Price as postmaster. It was discontinued on Oct. 27, 1864, at the time most of the postoffices in the county were discontinued, and not reopened until Nov. 14, 1865, when Simon Jones was appointed postmaster. Jones was replaced May 28, 1866 by Felix L. Mills, and he, by Reese G. Applegate, on Nov. 12, 1867, who served until the postoffice was discontinued on April 14, 1875.

Captain William W. Campbell was another individual who took a prominent role in the affairs of Lane's Landing. He was born in Kentucky in December of 1826, and came to Missouri with his parents in 1833. He had a store at Lane's Landing about 1855.

When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Union Army and became captain of his unit, which was Company D, Fifth Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged at St. Louis in July of 1865, and on returning to Scott County, found that his home had been burned by guerrilas.

The present landing would appear to be at least one quarter of mile west of the original landing. The land there has been both cut and filled to an astonishing extent. My friend, Jim Burton, tells me, that, after a period of high water a few years ago, he saw, at the present landing, visible evidence of early row crop cultivation exposed where some eight or ten feet of top soil had been washed away. When these crops were tilled, could not be determined, but likely it was many years ago.

White settlers, of course, did not occupy the Price's Landing area until the 1790s, but there may well have been French hunters in the area as early as 1703.

In the year 1702 a party of French and Indians under the command of Lieutenant-General Charles Juchereau de St. Denys established the Va Bache Fort and Tannery on the Illinois side of the river somewhere between the present Thompson's Bend and old Fayville or Santa Fe. Juchereau sent out buffalo hunters to supply the tannery with hides. And since the sandy prairies of Scott County were the nearest and best grazing lands for the buffalo, it is not unlikely that these hunters were active in our county. At any rate, Juchereau's force of 30 men killed and skinned 13,000 buffalo in the less than two years they were active in this region. It would appear then that buffalo were once very numerous on our sandy prairies. Even today there is a curious looking site six miles east of Morley that Mrs. Vernon Phillips says that her grandfather knew to have been a former buffalo wallow.

The Va Bache Fort and Tannery was not operated long, but continued to be shown on French maps until 1765, when a map, printed in that year, listed it, but as "ancient fort destroyed."

I had thought this fort might have been located atop the large Indian Mound at Lake Milliken, almost directly across the river from Price's Landing, but personal inspection of this site, in company with Jim Burton, revealed no evidence of it ever having been there.

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CYPRESS

Cypress is another early Scott County trading point and postoffice that has somehow escaped the attention of historians.

It was located on the eastern bank of Northcut Cypress Slough at the point where the old Benton-Charleston road crossed this slough. This would place it just north of present Highway 77;near the south line of Section 9, Township 27 N, Range 15 E, and about 2¼ miles NNE. of the present town of Diehlstadt.

Incidentally, Northcut was the name of a family that resided on the banks of this slough. Modern map makers, however, label the ditch that drained this slough, "North Cut," apparently under the impression that the name was derived from the geographical location of this drainage ditch.

At any rate, settlement appears to have begun early in the Cypress area, for we find that a Baptist Church was organized there in 1827, and remained more or less active there until transferred to Diehlstadt after the founding of that town in 1868.

We Know, too, that a postoffice was opened there in 1843, with Francis Kirkpatrick receiving his appointment as postmaster on Aug. 19th of that year. The next postmaster at Cypress was Henry C. Gist, who received his appointment to that office on Feb. 26, 1847. He was followed by Anderson Embry, who was appointed May 8, 1851. Embry served only a little over three months, and was replaced on Aug. 28, 1851 by Charles H. Kew; and he in turn, on Nov. 27, 1854, by Francis Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick held the office until Sept. 24, 1858, when he was replaced by Charles H. Kew. Then the office was discontinued on Oct. 4, 1858, but reestablished on Dec. 30, 1859, with Francis Kirkpatrick again acting as postmaster. It was permanently discontinued on June 6, 1864,

because guerilla activities made the roads unsafe for the northern carriers to deliver mail, and for the postmasters to maintain postoffices in Scott County.

As a matter of fact, mail service was not only discontinued to Cypress, but also to Sikeston, Benton, Forest Mills and Price's Landing. Only the postoffice at Commerce enjoyed uninterrupted mail service throughout the war.

Road access to Cypress, however, came early. A county court order dated July 10, 1831 directed that a road be built across the Cypress slough." This was built to serve the growing settlement of Cypress, as no other road was ever built across the Cypress slough until it was drained, which was in 1901, when the "North Cut Cypress Slough Ditch" was completed.

One final note on the "North Cut" name. County land records show John Northcut owning land (Sec. 17, Twp. 27, R 15) in 1840 that adjoined the Northcut Cypress Slough.

THE NORTHCUT CYPRESS SWAMP

Albert De Reign, a 19th century journalist of some note, also prosecuting attorney of Scott County from 1882 to 1888, was well acquainted with this swamp, and described it as a "sluggish body of water, with gloomy shades, bright green flags, and broad leaved yankapin (Nelumbium luteum Willd, also known as chinkapin, wankapin, yoncopin, and water lotus)."

"About one mile wide, its waters are black and lie so still that all objects are reflected upon it as if upon the face of a great mirror; upon the surface of which rest large water lilies and broad leaved, dark green yankapins. Then imagine the whole overshadowed by the tops of gigantic cypress trees, and a twilight darkness in midday throughout the entire region, and you have a feeble conception of the scene. Then, when you are told that man nor beast can cross through this shade and quagmire to the solid bank upon the farther side, you have before your mind a picture which reminds you forcibly of the river Styx and its environments."

Otto Kochtitsky, whose business frequently took him into these swamps, was impressed by their beauty "in fair weather or foul," and found them especially charming on a breezy day in June. "But the day must be breezy. On a still day the mosquitos rose from the protecting vegetation, and literally swarmed in the shelter of the forest. A veil or net carefully attached to the wide brim of a hat, drawn close by a string about the neck, would protect our faces, but we could not wear gloves in summer. The poisonous moccasins and other water snakes were everywhere.

The margin of the swamp was a resort for raccoon and mink, which fed in the flag patches during the latter part of the summer and autumn."(The Story of a Busy Life, by Otto Kochtitsky, 1931)

SANDY PRAIRIE OR PLEASANT PLAINS

If you look at a modern, large scale map of Scott County, you will see, beginning about three miles south of Morley on Highway 61, a north-south series of rectangles, set at all angles, and bearing no relation to the grid of section lines that cover much of the remainder of the county.

These odd positioned rectangles are old Spanish land grant surveys, indicative of very early settlement. These surveys extend in an almost solid line, down the Sikeston ridge, to New Madrid.

When the early settlers selected these sites for their homes, this ridge was one of the few high and dry areas in the southern half of what was to become Scott County. On the west, the ridge was bordered by Lake St. Mary; and beyond it there was a great swamp across which meandered Caney Creek, the East Fork of Whitewater River, the Whitewater itself, and below the junction of the latter two, what sometimes was called James River. These rivers, in early years, sometimes approached quite close to Lake St. Mary, and brought with them the waters of Castor River, which flowed east out of Stoddard County into the James River.

On the east side, the Sikeston ridge was paralelled by Lake St. John, an arm of which extended northeast to where Interstate 55 now leaves the Benton hills. The River Styx occupied the lowlands between Lake St. John and the present site of Blodgett, and just beyond [redacted] was the great Cypress Swamp, one branch of which reached to a point four miles north of Blodgett, and the other branch ran past the present site of Diehlstadt, all of the way to the hills three and one-half miles southwest of Commerce.

A series of lakes, in most cases abandoned meanders of the river, occupied the area between the great Cypress Swamp and the Mississippi. There were five of these, not counting Varnon's slough, which occupied the upper end of the lowland west of Power's Island. The southermost was Big Lake, part of which extended southward into what is now Mississippi County.

In view of this situation, it is not hard to understand why early settlers bypassed these lands and selected sites on Sikeston Ridge, which was above overflow waters and was blessed with a rich and easily cultivated sandy loam soil.

Old maps do not agree as to the precise location of Pleasant Plains, but the 1853 edition of Colton's Gazetteer says that it was located "on the north point of the tongue of land separating lakes St. Mary and St. John." From this information and what appears to be the most accurate of these maps, I would place its location as having been near the present Highway 61 about five miles south of Morley and near the present site of Grant City.

We know from the Spanish land grants that this area was settled early, and the large size of the nearby Carpenter's cemetery indicates, too, that there was a substantial population in the area before the Civil War. The earliest monument there dates back only to 1847, but then that merely indicates, what we have learned from other cemeteries, and that is that commercial grave markers did not become available in this region until about 1840. Prior to that, graves either went unmarked, or, were marked with unfinished stones or wooden markers, which soon rotted away.

Pleasant Plains was never surveyed out as a town, and as a result there are no records of it as such. Nor do the records of the county court provide any mention of it--not even a dram shop license. John, or Juan, La Valle, the original claimant of Survey 46, may have had a branch trading post there at a very early date, since he was active in trade at New Madrid. But that, of course, we cannot prove.

The first verifiable date that we have is May 7, 1834, when postoffice records show that William Johnson was appointed as the postmaster at Pleasant Plains. These early postoffices produced practically no income for their postmasters, so usually were run by a local merchant. An entry in presiding elder Jacob Lanius' diary tells us that on Nov. 16 and 17th, 1839, he "held the first quarterly meeting for New Madrid Circuit at Pleasant Plains meeting house in Sandy Prairie. Two professed faith in Christ. This is a land of swamps and earthquakes, so that you have no access to the circuit save by crossing a swamp. I crossed on a levee three miles long. The land is very fertile, but the country sickly."

By this we know that a church house had been erected at Pleasant Plains some time prior to Nov. 16, 1839, and that there were enough people in the area to warrant construction of it. Lanius' remark about "a levee three miles long," probably refers to that section of the old Benton-New Madrid road between the present site of Morley and the extreme northern tip of the Sikeston Ridge, which was truncated at that point by the confluence of lakes St. John and St. Mary. These lakes also cut across Sikeston Ridge just above Survey 69, but in this latter case, the gap in the ridge was a mdnor one.

Pleasant Plains may have had a school, too, for there was one in the immediate area of the settlement very shortly after the Civil War. Unfortunately, as we have mentioned previously, all records of the county's antebellum private and public schools appear to have been lost or destroyed, so nothing positive can be stated about any of the county's early schools.

Subsequent postmasters at Pleasant Plains were, Washington Orr, appointed Dec. 29, 1836; Benjamin Benefield, appointed Aug. 17, 1847; Isaac Hunter, appointed April 1, 1851. The postoffice was temporarily discontinued on Feb. 12, 1856, but was reestablished June 7, 1856, with Samuel E. McMullen as postmaster. McMullen was followed on Dec. 13, 1859, by Samuel S. Watson, who served until May 21, 1860, when the Pleasant Plains postoffice was moved to the newly established town of Sikeston.

Samuel E. McMullen died Nov. 27, 1859, which accounts for the Dec. 13, 1859 appointment of his replacement, Samuel S. Watson. McMullen is buried in the old Applegate cemetery, which is located on the east side of Highway 61 about two-thirds of a mile SE. of Carpenter's Cemetery. (The Applegate Cemetery is now known as the Benefield-McMullen Cemetery.)

Isaac Hunter was born on May 27, 1821, and died June 21, 1891. He is buried in the old Morley Cemetery. Nothing is known of the deaths and burials of the other Pleasant Plains postmasters.

Washington Orr, who was postmaster at Pleasant Plains from 1836 to 1847, was also a pioneer Methodist minister and served the New Madrid Circuit, which included Pleasant Plains, during the years 1821 and 1822.

Benjamin F. Benefield, like Orr, was a Methodist preacher, or at least was so listed in 1857. By then the North and South segments of this church had parted ways, and Benefield, one of Scott County's largest slave holders, quite naturally was of the latter persuasion.

Subscription schools must have been taught in the Pleasant Plains area as early as the 1830s, since Isaac Hunter told the editors of Goodspeed's History of SE. Missouri that he had been born five miles south of Morley and obtained his education in local subscription schools. He left Scott County when he became 21 (1842), but returned in 1850, and, as we have stated previously, was appointed postmaster at Pleasant Plains on April 1, 1851. In 1852 Hunter was elected county surveyor and commissioner of swamp lands.

He removed to New Madrid County in 1856. Hence, the temporary discontinuation of the Pleasant Plains postoffice, until a successor, in this case, Samuel E. McMullen, could be persuaded to accept the job. McMullen, as we noted, received his appointment on June 7, 1856.

WEST PHILADELPHIA

It is rather curious that previous historians seem to have been totally unaware of the existence of West Philadelphia. Such an oversight is understandable in the cases of unplatted villages, such as Brockville, Maxville, Rural Forest, Pleasant Plains, Aderton City, Springhill, Vollmersville and Dannenmillersville, all of which have been similarly ignored. But in the case of platted and recorded towns like West Philadelphia, their neglect is much less understandable.

The records there are plentiful, and begin in 1836, with the purchases of land from Charles Griffith and wife; from Catherine Griffith, wife of David Griffith, deceased, and John Hall. The bulk of this land appears to have been in Spanish land grant Survey No. 12, which at that time bordered on the river, but now is about one and one-half miles inland from it.

Some of these deeds seem to have disappeared from the records, but that made by John Hall is dated June 12, 1836, and involved the transfer of 94 acres of land to Josiah C. Tomlinson and Elijah C. Eads of St. Louis. Hall had purchased this land ~~xxxkpxxixxyxi835~~ from Catherine Griffith on April 3, 1835. This, incidentally, is the only document mentioning Elijah C. Eads.

The town was surveyed and platted by John Rodney and a steam sawmill evidently was erected in the town almost immediately after it was founded. This is suggested by a deed dated Oct. 4, 1836, that involved the purchase by Miles A. Gilbert of Kaskaskia County, Ill., of Lots 4 and 5 "25 feet each on Front Street and running back 140 feet; also Lots 3 and 6--in the rear, fronting 50 feet on South Second Street--running back 140 feet in block number 11." The price paid for these four lots was $300, indicating that there was a house of some sort on them.

On May 13, 1837 Nathaniel Rodgers of Wolfborough, Strafford County, New Hampshire, paid down earnest money on a one-third interest in the steam sawmill at West Philadelphia. The deed conveying this one-third interest was made to Nathaniel Rodgers and Stephen Coffin, both of Wolfborough. The purchase price was $1,635.

The deed describes the property transferred as a one-third interest in "a steam saw mill, steam engine, and all of the machinery thereunto belonging, together with the whole of a certain Patented Shingle Cutter (Called Moore's Patent) now in operation in said mill; and also a third interest in certain lots of ground situated in West Philadelphia, being the same on which the steam saw mill and shingle machine stands, and numbered on the plat of said town 1, 4, and 5 in block number 4."

This deed and the deeds to previously sold lots were all signed by Josiah C. Tomlinson and his wife, Charlotte L. Tomlinson.

Other deeds and records show that houses and lots were also sold to William Rodgers, of Wolfborough, son of Nathaniel Rodgers; Enos Peabody; William Porter, of Alton, Ill.; Peter Moreton, Charles Neally, M.P. Newman, David Taylor, William Russell, James A. Russell, Joseph Russell and Washington Humphreys.

No doubt there were other purchasers, as no effort was made to list all of the recorded transactions involving West Philadelphia property.

William Rodgers established a store and warehouse in West Philadelphia. He was also the town's first and only postmaster, and received his appointment on June 23, 1837. The West Philadelphia post office was discontinued Oct. 23, 1844. This likely followed the death of William C. Rodgers, and was brought on by a lack of a satisfactory replacement for him.

Washington Humphreys was a shoemaker, and presumably established a shop and carried on his trade at West Philadelphia. His wife was Ann Russell, and Humphreys and his brothers-in-law, William and James Russell, all came to West Philadelphia from Maryland, travelling by wagon to Wheeling, Va., and from there, by boat, to West Philadelphia. They arrived there late in the year 1836.

We know from a document recorded in Book 8, pages 169, 170 and 171, "Warranty Deeds," that West Philadelphia survived the great flood of 1844, also that the town's founder, Josiah C. Tomlinson, died in 1844 or

1845. This document states that the County Court "did on the 9th day of August, 1845 order that Alvan Cook and John Chapman, administrators of the estate of Josiah C. Tomlinson sell to the highest bidder at Benton on Oct. 15, 1845, the following described real estate belonging to Josiah C. Tomlinson, deceased.

To wit. Nine town lots in the town of West Philadelphia, on which there are three dwelling houses near the Steam Mill; one house and lot formerly occupied by William Arnold, one lot and Blacksmith Shop in said town; one house and lot corner of Front and Spruce streets; one house and lot formerly occupied by Enos Peabody, one more house and two lots formerly occupied by William C. Rogers; 381 vacant lots, one large house and lots enclosed in said town; 3 lots in said town on which are situate a Steam Mill engine and boiler. One hundred and eighty-one acres of land adjoining said town, part of a tract of land conveyed by Charles Griffith and wife to Tomlinson, one undivided half of a tract of 94 acres, being the same land devised by David Griffith to his wife Catherine Griffith."

On May 22, 1846, Nathaniel C. Rogers, having returned to Wolfborough, N.H., gave Felix Allen power of attorney to sell his land in "Sections 19 and 20, also his and wife, E. Jane Roger's interests in lots 1, 4 and 5, together with the steam mill and machinery belonging thereunto; also to collect any debts owing to me or monies due me from the estate of my son William N. Rogers, deceased."

On May 6, 1847 Nathaniel Rogers sold his Sections 19 and 20 lands and the three lots in West Philadelphia to Thomas M. Shaw and Alvan Cook for $215. The deed speaks simply of lots 1, 4 and 5, with no mention of the mill. This fact, plus the very low price, makes it almost certain that the mill was removed from this property in the period between May 22, 1846 and May 6, 1847.

An Oct. 25, 1853 quit claim deed made by Thomas Shaw to George Frickey, disposed of Shaw's "one half of the one third, which

is an undivided interest in three lots near where said mill formerly stood, also one lot whereon a Blacksmith Shop formerly stood; also one house and lot formerly occupied by William Arnold; also one house and lot at the corner of Front and Spruce streets; also two lots on which a Store and warehouse formerly occupied by William C. Rogers stood, and also the lots on which a large dwelling house or mansion house formerly stood; also one lot and house where Enos Peabody formerly lived; also 381 vacant lots, the whole of said real estate being in the town of West Philadelphia."

We know from the above that at least three houses were still standing on these lots in 1853. Likewise, another deed made by Shaw to Frickey on April 19, 1856, again mentions these houses as still standing. However, this may not have been so a few years later.

A biography on page 998 of Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri tells us that "Joseph T. Russell settled in West Philadelphia in 1853. Unaware of the treacherous character of the river, he invested all his money in town property. A year or two later his lots were destroyed by the encroachment of the river, and he removed to Mathews' Prairie. He was a carpenter and made the trip to Missouri in a wagon, accompanied by Judge Noah C. Handy." Joseph Russell was a grandson of James A. Russell, who had settled in West Philadelphia in 1836. Both of the Russells came here from Maryland. Noah C. Handy later became prominent in the affairs of Mississippi County, becoming a director of Charleston's first bank and one of the first judges of that county's County Court.

Thus, a series of great floods on the Mississippi in 1844, 1849, 1850 and 1853, appear to have doomed West Philadelphia; first by overflow, and then by bank erosion. Then, in the years after 1880, Powers Island began to build southward, and now the site of West Philadelphia is once again on dry land, some one and one half miles inland from the river.

The West Philadelphia steam sawmill and shingle machine were one of the first, if not actually the first, such mills in Southeast Missouri. Moreover, for the first time it made shingles and sawn lumber available for the construction of frame houses in this still sparsely settled area.

Too, its promoters brought into this area artisans trained in the earlier settled eastern states, and a goodly number of these people remained in Scott County long after the demise of West Philadelphia.

Virtually all of the land involved in the West Philadelphia project eventually ended up in the hands of George Frickey, who retained ownership of it until the 1890s.

In our research at the old Commerce cemetery, we probed out and excavated the buried grave markers of Fricke's wife and son, but did not find his tombstone. Perhaps he married again and was buried elsewhere.

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MILES A. GILBERT, who bought lots 3, 4, 5 and 6 in West Philadelphia on Oct. 4, 1836, was born at Hartford, Conn., on Jan. 1, 1810. He arrived in Kaskaskia, Ill., on June 8, 1832, and opened three stores there and in surrounding communities. Every year he made trips to New Orleans to purchase merchandise for his stores and may have met the promoters of West Philadelphia on one of these trips.

In the spring of 1843 he was appointed sole agent of the Cairo (Ill.) City and Canal Co. and moved to Cairo. He remained there until 1846. In 1847 he settled on a tract of land about seven miles south of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., and in 1848 had a townsite surveyed off on this land and called the place St. Marys. He remained at St. Marys the remainder of his life, dying there on Jan. 21, 1901.

ALEXANDRIA, ILLINOIS

In the interest of perspective it seems to me appropriate to mention a project very similar to that of the founding of West Philadelphia, especially since it took place just across the river in Alexander County, Illinois, a short distance south of the present hamlet of Fayville, which is directly across the river from Commerce.

The town of Alexandria was laid out by Charles M. Thurston and Alexander M. Fountaine. The plat for it was filed March 23, 1838, and showed a town of 89 blocks containing a total of 1,038 lots. No research appears to have been done on the history of this town founding project.

This, however, was not the first development in that area, which is immediately south of Fayville, as, perhaps as early as 1770, McElmurry's Fort or Station had been constructed there, and John McElmurry, Joseph Standlee, and Abraham, Thomas and Joshua Flanary and their families were all residing on land grants in the region around the fort.

NEW YORK AND THE NEW YORK SETTLEMENT

New York and the New York Settlement were related but entirely separate historical developments. Traditions of the latter had survived in the Scott City area, but the history of New York and its potteries were completely unknown until we began our studies in the area on Jan. 24, 1981.

At that time the river was at an extremely low level, presenting an unusual opportunity to study the huge limestone ledge formation that makes up the Grand Chain. This rock peninsula, once nationally famous as a navigational hazard and scenic attraction, is located approximately one half mile south of the Thebes railroad bridge and extends about one third of the way across the river.

My friends Mason Emerson, Dallas Grubb, Jerry Hampton and I rested, during this excursion, at the ruins of the old Gottleib Rose home, which had been erected about 1880 and purchased in 1913 by David Miller, who retained ownership of it until 1947, when he sold it to the Solvay Process Co. of Syracuse, N.Y.

While idly probing alongside the basement of the Rose house, I found some ceramic spools that, at the time mystified me, but that I later learned were a unique type of sagger used by the New York potters in stacking bottles in their kilns.

Nothing more was done until Aug. 22, 1981, when Billy Foulk and I again went to this site and actually began the work of exploring it. On that occasion we were able to definitely determine that a pottery had been located there, [redacted] Our test holes also showed that a great many bottles, bearing the name S.D. Smith, had been manufactured there.

Prior to that Mike Brock and I had discovered what excavation later revealed to be the Charles Koch pottery. This was located about one mile south of the New York pottery, and on property owned by David Miller. No one knew anything of the history of this pottery, but our digs soon turned up marked and dated potsherds. All of the dates were either 1868 or 1869. Later, about one quarter mile east of the Koch pottery, we were able to locate the dump of an older pottery, which, according to the marks on the potsherds, had been operated by a man named Abcock.

Then, on Aug. 30, 1981, acting on a tip supplied by Billy Foulk, David Dickey and I went to a site on the Solvay Process land rented by Homer McKinley and found still another pottery, at which we found potsherds marked by Joseph Hercher and Burkhart Juengling.

In the meantime we had begun doing research in the recorder's office at Benton, and a series of deeds and a will led me to surmise that an ante bellum pottery had once been located on property just east of Scott City now owned by Clem Lindeman. Mr. Lindeman and I inspected the site and soon found the glazed remains of the kiln lining and potsherds marked "Joseph Hercher." No doubt further digging at the Lindeman site would reveal the marks of other potters, since we know that this pottery was established in 1848 by Casper Eicele, who, in his will, directed his wife to lease it out to potters for terms of six or twelve months. In addition, it was later purchased by Burkhart Juengling, which fact probably accounts for the name of his associate, Joseph Hercher, being on some of the potsherds found at this site.

The two potteries at Commerce have to be considered as a part of this New York area ceramic development, since their owners were active in developing the New York potteries. And the same likely was true of the antebellum pottery that is known to have been in operation above Santa Fe or Fayville almost directly across the river from New York.

The first of the New York developers arrived in the area in the 1820s. Isaac C. Cornwell, an Englishman, was listed in the census of 1830, but did not buy the 25-acre fractional Section 1, Township 29N., Range 14E. New York pottery site until the fall of 1831, when it was sold at auction at Benton as State seminary or university land.

Robert Owen, the English social reformer, however, had recognized the potential value of the potter's clays exposed in the river bluffs above Commerce at an even earlier date. Before leaving for England in 1827 he acquired, by purchase from the government, "the South East fractional quarter of Section 13, Township 29N., Range 14E. containing one hundred and forty-six acres and seventeen hundreths of an acre (146 17/100)." This land bordered the west bank of the Mississippi for almost a mile, with its southern end being the Section 13-24 line about two thirds of a mile above Commerce.

The first mention of this tract in the records at Benton is dated April 10th, 1832, and is contained in a State Auditor's notice that 8 97/100 ac of this land, "originally claimed by Robert Owen, and assessed to him," would be sold unless said Owen paid 43 cents in back taxes, penalties and costs. Evidently this was paid, for Owen still owned this Scott County land when he died in 1858. His heirs, however, sold it Dec. 14, 1860. The deed, made at New Harmony in Posey County, Indiana, was signed by

Robert Dale Owen, Mary Jane Owen, Richard Owen, Anne Eliza Owen, Henry Fitton, Mary Francis Fitton, Caroline Owen, and Richard Owen, "as administrator of the estate of David Dale Owen, deceased." David Dale Owen had died on Nov. 13, 1860.

Robert Owen, of course, never resided on his Scott County land, but seems to have retained the management of it, as there does not appear to be any documents concerning this property among the family records at New Harmony, which likely would have been the case had he turned the management of this property over to his children, as he did his New Harmony property.

We know that during the later years of his ownership, Noah C. Johnson, a Commerce attorney, handled this property for him. But there must have been others, for as early as 1838, potter's clay from the Owen tract was being shipped to James Clew's Indiana Pottery Co. plant at Troy, Indiana. Clew was a famous English potter who came to this country to manufacture high-grade whiteware. We also know that Owen's representative shipped clay to delftware manufacturers in St. Louis in the early 1850s, and that they also mined and sold sand. This, too, as early as 1838. One such sale of this date, in fact, is mentioned in Powell's "History of Mississippi County."

Nor did the exploitation of these deposits cease with Owen's ownership. An article in the Dec. 12, 1868 Commerce "Dispatch" says that at that time "the Commerce Chalk Bank" was owned by Messrs. Bennett & Colclough, "who are now engaged in furnishing an East Liverpool, Ohio, porcelain manufacturing establishment with this material," which the article also indicated could be used as "French chalk, for polishing serpentine, marble or glass," or, "for removing the stains of grease or oil from silk or woolen materials, and, as a pigment substitute for white lead in white paint."

The last firm to exploit the Owen tract clays was Post Brothers Tile Co., which,for some years after 1908, mined a lower grade clay there that was used by them in the manufacture of drain tile and flue liners.

This interest of the Owens in the potter's clays of Scott County may have played a role in causing potters to come here and establish potteries. For one thing, the presence of William Maclure and David Dale Owen, then among the nation's leading geologists, at Owen's New Harmony colony, might have led potters to go there to learn where suitable clays could be found. And both, because of Robert Owen's interest in the clays of this region, in all probabilty were aware of his and other suitable clays that outcropped in the creeks and valleys north of Commerce.

Others who came early and acquired land in the immediate vicinity of New York were the potters William and Samuel Gracey, Isaac Reed, Thomas H. Price, Frederick Weeksueny, David S. Idom and Ebenezer Pickering. But despite all of our research, we have been unable to learn who actually had the town of New York surveyed and platted, and the plats themselves have disappeared, too, though there are mentions of their once having been on file in the county recorder's office at Benton.

The earliest document pertaining to New York that has survived in county records is a sheriff's sale "by virtue of two executions issued by Justice of the Peace George W. Tayloe" on Nov. 29, 1840, for a debt of $73.17 owed by Frederick Weeksueny on "one house and lot situated in the town of New York, being north lot 13, also a vacant fractional lot 4, and the north fractional lot 17, also north lot 41." The $73.17 was owed to Isaac Reed, who, presumably had sold

the house and lots to Weeksueny some time in the 1830s.

At the sheriff's sale March 25, 1841, Isaac Reed bid in this property. On July 10, 1841 Reed sold lot 13 to Balsir Oartar for $75. This was Oartar's first purchase in the area, though he eventually purchased large tracts of land around the New York pottery. In fact, we know from Dr. B.F. Shumard's "Description of a Geological Section on the Mississippi River, from St. Louis to Commerce," Second Annual Report, 1854, of the Missouri Geological Survey, pages 154-157, that Oartar actually was the owner of the New York pottery at the time Shumard visited it.

Because of its interest and antiquity, the Shumard report dealing with Scott County has been included in its entirety.

"Just below the mouth of this creek (Cape LaCroix), the Trenton limestone is again exposed, in bold escarpments, fifty-five feet high. The blue schistose layers present a thickness of fifteen feet, and are densely crowded with fossils, usually in the most perfect state of prservation. These are surmounted by the white crystalline beds of the last section (Kimmswick limestone), which exhibits a thickness of forty feet. The upper portions appears to present all the characters of the Cape Girardeau marble; and there is, in my opinion, a marble of good quality that may also be quarried here. This exposure extends along the river for several hundred yards, the schistose layers disappearing towards the lower extremity, whilst the crystalline beds form cliffs ninety feet high. In the uppermost strata, I found Receptaculites, and good specimens of a prettily-sculptured crinoid, of the genus Echinoencrinites.

At the foot of the Grand Chain, on Oerter's land, the Trenton Limestone is capped with sandstone, similar to that noticed on

the higher elevations in the vicinity of Cape Girardeau (Thebes sandstone). The hills are about a hundred feet high; and on the declivities of some of them, deposits of potter's clay occur, of good quality. The variety preferred by Mr. Oerter, who has a pottery at this place, is of yellowish ash color, and contains masses of ochre disseminated. It is, however, generally mixed with a white clay, obtained three-quarters of a mile west of the pottery, the mixture forming a better quality ware than when either is used separately.

A mile below the Grand Chain, the river shore is covered with huge blocks of white and brown sandstone (Cretaceous quartzite), some of them weighing many tons; and a half mile below this locality, it is seen in place, reposing on clay and shale, with a dip of twenty degrees southeast.

The section here, in the ascending order, is:

1. Slope, covered with large blocks of sandstone, 10 feet.
2. Gray and purple shale, with thin laminations of sandstone, 8 feet.
3. Ferruginous, highly plastic, silicious clay, with fragments of decomposing chert, embedded, 20 feet.
4. White and brown heavy-bedded sandstone, 30 to 40 feet.

A short distance from this place, and three-quarters of a mile above Commerce, is a deposit of pure white silicious clay (Owen's tripolitic chert and clay), containing masses of flint and ochre. It commences at the river margin, and extends to the heigh of twenty-five feet, where it is surmounted by sandstone.

The analysis of this clay is as follows:

Alumina, with a trace of peroxide of iron	9.09 %
Lime	.33 %
Silica	86.82 %
Water	3.13 %
Total	99.37 %

Between this point (Chalk Bluff) and Commerce, the hills do not vary much from a hundred feet in height, and sandstone (quartzite) is the only rock to be seen. At the village, it reaches from the water level to the height of fifty feet. This rock exposure is the last to be seen on the Missouri shore in descending the Mississippi, and our section, therefore, terminates at this point.

Analysis of clays from Oerter's place: WHITER VARIETY:

Silica	80.50%
Alumina, with some peroxide of iron	14.06%
Magnesia	0.44%
Lime	0.35%
Total	99.05%

Clay from same place as the last, BLUE VARIETY:

Silica	62.73%
Alumina, with some peroxide of iron	23.17%
Lime	1.69%
Magnesia	1.42%
Water	10.49%
Total	99.50%"

This, to my knowledge, is the only historical notice of the New York pottery.

The potsherds in the oldest part of the New York pottery waste dump are unmarked. In the newer portions, however, we found the following marks: S.D. Smith, Smith & Fotheringham, W. Lindsay; Balsir Oartar, New York, Mo., and G. Ro----, an incomplete mark.

No documents are on record at Benton indicating any of these potters other than Oartar ever actually owned the New York pottery.

Despite our extensive excavations at the site and my documentary investigations at Benton, I was never able to positively determine who established the New York pottery. Isaac Cornwell was on the site when the census of 1830 was taken, Isaac Reed purchased it from Cornwell in 1836, Balsir Oartar bought the adjoining house and lot 13 from Reed in 1841, and the pottery site itself from Nathaniel Reed.

Isaac Reed died late in the year 1848 and is buried in the old hill-top cemetery at Commerce. His son, Nathaniel Reed, on Jan. 13, 1850, sold, according to a deed recorded at Benton, South lots 11, 12 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23, and North lots 4, 12, 13, 17 and 41 to "Balthaser Oerter." This is somewhat puzzling, since Oartar bought North Lot 13 in 1841.

North Lot 13 is the only lot, the location of which I have been able to determine. Measurements from it indicate that, if numbering began to the south, that Rose Creek was the dividing line between the North and South lots of the town.

Be that as it may, Oartar sold his New York land to Thomas H. Price on April 27, 1857. Price was a farmer, not a potter, and it is unlikely that the pottery was ever operated after he purchased it.

On March 10, 1848 Casper Icelor purchased a 40-acre tract ($W\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 3, Section 3, Twp. 29 N., Range 14 E.) from Wm. Sieckman. Icelor established a pottery on the west half of this tract and sold the east half to Ludwig Miller.

In his will dated Jan. 20, 1857, Icelor (also Eicele) directed that "My wife have the use and profits of the house and farm on which I now live, for the maintenance of herself and her four children; the pot shop and kiln to be rented out for six or twelve months at a time, the profits of the same to be applied to the schooling and maintenance of my four children. The residue of my estate, after my wife has taken her part,

as above directed, be equally divided between Mary Soilas and John Aush (my two stepchildren), and Joseph Icelor and Sussanah Icelor, my own children, that they may share and share alike."

The following material kindly supplied by Ramona Glastetter, and from an article entitled "History of St. Joseph Parish of Illmo-Fornfelt", published Nov. 18, 1937 in "The Jimplicute," contains the only mention of the Icelor pottery that I have seen, also pertinent information on the "Little New York Settlement." Parenthetical remarks are mine.

"As early as 1849 (actually 1840 or earlier), immigrants came from Germany, traveling by steamboat from New Orleans up the Mississippi River. Catholics and Lutherans came about the same time, the latter, however, in greater numbers. The new colony was known as 'Little New York Settlement.' The immigrants purchased small tracts of land from slave holders and began to familiarize themselves with the farming methods of this region. They were practically isolated the greater part of the year; from New Hamburg, by impassable roads during the winter and spring, and from Cape Girardeau by submerged lands, commonly known as 'swamps.'

Some of the Catholics were affiliated with St. Lawrence Church in New Hamburg; others were members of St. Vincent's Church in Cape Girardeau. In 1852 these devout settlers petitioned good Father Leo of New Hamburg to minister to their spiritual needs. Father Leo granted their request and said Holy Mass in their homes and gave much needed and welcomed instruction, from 1852 to 1859.

(The German Lutheran immigrants organized their Eisleben Church in 1848, the first entry in their church records, in fact, bears the date of Feb. 27, 1848. Their first pastor, A. Lehmann, served them from that date until May of 1855.)

The following year, 1860, Mr. Louis (Ludwig) Miller donated ten acres (actually 3 acres, and the deed was made Sept. 29, 1860) of

land for church purposes. The same year a small log building was erected. The newly established mission numbered ten families: those of Louis (Ludwig) Miller, Burkhart Jingling (Juengling), Peter Compas, John Hire, Max Brenneisen, Peter Gosche, John Ouk, Schéinmann, and Mrs. Catherine Mines (Meinz). A few families from Thebes, Ill., attended when conditions permitted. Some from Commerce came occasionally.

Father George Tureck attended to the mission from 1861 to 1863. From 1863 to 1865 Hamburg was without a pastor. Father Stromberger from 1865 to 1867; Father Scherer from 1867 to 1868. During the Civil War, divine services were conducted very irregularly. In 1868 the mission in 'Little New York Settlement' ceased to exist.

Two reasons may be assigned for its failure. In the first place, the mission had enjoyed no increase; and secondly, the site was not centrally located.

Mr. Casper Heisley (Icelor or Eicele) owned a pottery factory. After Heisley's death, Mr. Burkhart Jingling continued the industry, and donated one acre of land for cemetery purposes. The mission parish did not hold the deed to the property until 1860. About 35 bodies were interred in this cemetery."

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This article again is the only mention that has previously been made of the Icelor pottery although it actually was on the edge of what later became Scott City.

The Icelor pottery was not operated during the Civil War, and after that conflict, on Feb. 8, 1866, Burkhart Juengling and wife, Maximillian, sold the pottery and farm to John Meinz. Meinz, as near as we have been able to determine, never made pottery there, nor does any appear to have ever been made there at a later date.

Juengling, in fact, moved to the relative safety of Cape Girardeau while the war was yet in progress. He died in Cape Girardeau on Nov. 10, 1875. His only heir was his wife, though the estate papers mentioned the possibility of there being brothers in Europe. His property consisted of four houses and tracts of land in Cape Girardeau, some farming equipment, and ten small loans totalling $2,600 that he had loaned out at ten per cent interest. Cash on hand totalled $32.

Charles Koch, who died early in 1879, toward the end of a great economic depression, fared less well. His estate consisted of three small pieces of real estate, $5 in cash, two potter's wheels, 140 stoneware pots, 5 gallon jugs, 25 flower pots, assorted small damaged pots, lot of mixed stoneware and 4 chamber pots.

Balthaser Cartar died in 1867 at his home just west of Gray's Point. He left an estate of at least 420 acres of land and substantial cash assets, plus the usual farm equipment.

Charles Koch, incidentally, came to Missouri about 1863. Previously he had resided across the river in the Santa Fe or Fayville community, where he had operated a pottery for some years.

I was never able to determine with any certainty who built and owned the pottery located on the very westernmost border of the NE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 2, Township 29N, Range 14E. William Sieckman owned this property in the antebellum period when this pottery was in operation. However, property owned by the Graceys extended to within about 25 feet of the pottery site, and a small error in surveying could have placed the pottery on their property. Juengling, who owned a farm just north of this pottery likely was its principle operator. Joseph Hercher's mark has also been found on potsherds at this site, but whether he actually leased the pottery or worked under Juengling is a moot question. At any rate, operations ceased in the mid-1850s,

following the sale of Gracey's land to Sieckman March 14, 1851, and Sieckman's death about the year 1855. Perhaps those recorders who, on some occasions, spelled his name"Sickman" were inadvertently prophesying his demise.

Both the Koch and Abcock potteries were located on the SW¼ of the SW¼ of fractional Section 12, Township 29N, Range 14E, property now owned by the heirs of David Miller. William Gracey, however, was the owner of the Abcock pottery site until the spring of 1855, when George Albrecht purchased this land, and also that on which the Koch pottery was built in 1867. Albrecht was a baker and farmer and did not operate the Abcock pottery.

Charles Koch married Albrecht's daughter Louisa, and on George Albrecht's death in 1866 came into possession of the land on which he erected his pottery.

Both Koch and Albrecht were German Lutherans and early but not founding members of Eisleben Lutheran Church. Those who actually founded the church and were present at the April 30, 1848 meeting were the families of Daniel Bohnhardt, Andrew Buhs, Mrs. Amal Boeckman, Karl Uelsmann, August Hilleman, Clamus Kettler, Samuel Reppart, Heinrich Thoele, Johan Heinrich Vordenfeld and Wilhelm Vordenfeld.

According to the death register of Eisleben Church Carl Heinrich Christian Koch, the potter, died Feb. 14, 1879 of "lung fever," and was buried in the "new" Eisleben Church cemetery. He was born Dec. 12, 1828 in Lippe, a principality of Germany.

The Koch, New York and Abcock pottery sites are all on property either owned or rented by Vincent Miller, son of the previously mentioned David Miller. His permission for investigation of these sites was essential. This he always courteously and readily gave, along with invaluable information and advice. We owe him a debt

of gratitude for making these researches possible. Unfortunately we did not always receive this sort of kindness and understanding from some of the other renters and property owners in this region who had sites on their land that merited study and exploration.

Louise Albrecht Koch, wife of Charles Koch, the potter, died March 24, 1872, shortly after giving birth to a son, Charles Heinrich Julius Koch, who died Aug. 10, 1872. In 1873 Charles Koch married a widow named Mary Ann King, and a son, Charles Heinrich Christian Koch, was born to them on May 23, 1874. This child was born at Commerce, where Koch had moved after his second marriage and established a pottery. This pottery was located on lots 3 and 4 on the west side of Water Street. His wares were displayed in a building on lots 121 and 122, directly across Water Street from his pottery, and potsherds litter both of these sites even now.

Peter Rodenbaugh and his son, Irwin Elmer Rodenbaugh, leased the pottery and display building after Koch's death. On June 19, 1882 they signed a five-year rental agreement with Mrs. Koch, in which they agreed to pay $50 for the first year and $70 a year thereafter for the use of the "frame building" on lots 121 and 122.

A few examples of the "P. Rodenbaugh & Son" pottery still survive in the Commerce area.

The Santa Fe, Ill., pottery that Koch operated before the Civil War has to be considered as a part of the New York ceramic complex, as this pottery was north of Santa Fe and almost directly across the river from New York. Eisleben church records show that his daughter, Augusta, was born at Santa Fe on Nov. 26, 1854, and that his son, Heinrich Eduard, was born there on June 13, 1861. His next child, Marie Sophie Eleanore, however, was born in Scott County on April 18, 1865, which suggests that he operated the Santa Fe pottery for at least ten years.

There is evidence indicating that New York was not a one industry town. There is, for example, a huge Thebes sandstone quarry near the former site of the Thomas H. Price house and about one-quarter mile below the New York pottery. This is not mentioned in the Missouri Geological Survey's 1904 work on the "Quarrying Industry in Missouri," which covered both operating and recently abandoned quarries. Too, there are trees of such size on the floor of the quarry as to preclude any possibility of it having been worked during the past century.

Very little Thebes sandstone has been used for building purposes in Scott County, and what was used is known to have been mined in small quarries along the bluff north of New York. The output of this large quarry, consequently, must have been exported by river boat to more distant sites.

This would have been a simple matter, since Uncle Joe's Landing, later known as Wray's Landing, was only a hundred yards or so south of this quarry. There is a tradition, too, in this region, and some on-site evidence, that a trading post once existed at this landing. The landing continued to be used until a comparatively recent date, as Vincent Miller tells me, that when he was a boy, livestock was yet driven to Wray's Landing and loaded on steamboats for shipment to distant markets.

There is evidence, too, that a New Orleans firm manufactured keel boats at New York, in fact, assembled and launched them from the rocks of the Grand Chain. Illinois historians have claimed this industry for Thebes, saying that, in the early days, it was known as Sparhawk's Landing, and that the keel boats were made there during the time Thebes was known by that name. The truth of the matter, however, is that

Sparhawk's Landing was across the river near what is now known as Manning's Landing. Records at Benton show that William Kelso's heirs sold this 255-acre tract of riverside land to George Sparhawk on August 12, 1840. Moreover, there are maps made in the 1840s and 1850s that show Sparhawk's Landing on the west side of the river. Nor were there other Sparhawk's in the Thebes area in 1830 or 1840, for there is no mention of them in the censuses of those years.

On the Grand Chain site where we believe these boats were assembled, my friends and I have found a stone anchor (now in the possession of Mike Ballou of Cape Girardeau), hand-wrought ship's nails, and equipment that we believe may have been used in caulking the keelboats.

Still another industry that we have evidence was operated in conjunction with the New York pottery was a distillery, the output of which was bottled in ceramic bottles from this pottery. A former owner of what we believe was the distillery site reported plowing into a large dump of broken bottles there and was convinced that these were the discards from a distillery. Unfortunately the present owner has refused to allow us to inspect this site, and as a consequence, artifact evidence of this industry is lacking. However, in the 1920s four bottles bearing S.D. Smith's New York mark were dug up at an old saloon site in Cape Girardeau, indicating that whiskey was being bottled and sold in the New York bottles, presumably by some distiller in this immediate region.

In September of 1983 an article of mine on the New York, Mo., potters was published in "Hobbies," a national circulation magazine, and caused Mr. Robert Stevens, of Kansas City, Mo., a student of Missouri ceramics, who has a collection of Missouri stoneware valued at $30,000, to get in touch with me. He informed me that New York bottles bearing the names S.D. Smith and Smith & Fotheringham were being dug up in St. Louis,

and since he had several, gave me one of these to compare with those I had dug up at the pottery waste pit. Comparison showed them to be identical.

There are a number of intriguing mysteries involving the people who participated in the New York development. And one of the most interesting of these has to do with Isaac Cornwell, a man who came to this area in the 1820s, while the Indians were still here and the whole country was a wilderness.

He arrived here at about the time Robert Owen came to America and became interested in Scott County land. Was there some connection between the two? Then there is the question of what became of him. There are Cornwells in St. Louis. Did he, like the Graceys, go there when he left New York?

Then we would like to know more about Antone Harrier, whose son and heir, John Harrier, "alias Anton Flandran," on March 17, 1849, sold a large tract of land just southwest of the New York pottery to Balsir Cartar.

The mystery also remains as to the role the partners Ebenezer Pickering and David S. Idom, who entered land just north of the New York pottery, played in the laying out of the town of New York.

Search of the Probate Court records of Cape Girardeau County has revealed that Ebenezer Pickering, who resided elsewhere, died in 1851. At the time of his death he owned, in addition to his Scott County property, 16 acres of Mississippi riverfront land in Cape Girardeau County that included the platted village of Moccasin Spring. On this, and other property, he owed the heirs of Jackson attorney Johnson Ranney $1,239.38.

No information at all has been unearthed concerning the other partner, David S. Idom.

One final note: Many potsherds bearing the mark, "Balsir Cartar, New York, Mo.," were dug up at the pottery site, but no complete pieces. Nor have the Kansas City collectors ever seen a piece so marked. Perhaps they were shipped downriver. Hence, I am most anxious to

hear from anyone who has a stoneware item of any sort bearing this mark.

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THE EARLY HISTORY OF SIKESTON

Sikeston was founded as the results of the plans and efforts of John Sikes. However, in this Sikeston was not unique. Twenty-three years before, Josiah Tomlinson had founded West Philadelphia, which got off to a much more promising start than Sikeston. Diehlstadt, too, was a one man founding operation, and the man in that case was John Kirkpatrick. Then, still later, Edmund Gray established the "original town of Graysboro;" the later Cotton Belt Addition to Graysboro being, of course, a project of the managerial staff of that railroad.

Problems with the river destroyed West Philadelphia, and removal of the railroad roundhouse and yards from Graysboro in 1905 sealed the doom of that town. Diehlstadt has hung on, but its population has been shrinking since 1920.

Sikeston alone, of the county's privately founded towns, has continued to grow and prosper. John Sikes had selected a good site for his town, but this, as we shall see, was not evident during Sikes' lifetime.

At any rate, when, sometime in the early months of 1860, John Sikes decided to found himself a town, he proceeded to have the site surveyed and mapped, and the resulting map and description recorded at Benton, where it can now be found in the County Recorder's Office in Book 13. A.S. Henderson, the county's "Clerk & Ex-officio Recorder," indicated, in a subjoined note that Sikes' plat and description were turned over to him on April 30, 1860.

The description, for those who may not have read it, reads as follows:

"Beginning at a Stake (A) in the center line of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad thence N 19° W at right angles with said road 853 feet thence (B) S 11° W parallel with said road 1,440 feet thence (C) S 17° E 1,250 feet thence (D) N 71° E 1,400 feet thence (E) N 19° W 395 feet to the center line of Railroad thence N 71° E along the railroad 40 feet to the place of beginning, except that portion in the Southwest corner belonging to the heirs of_____Trotter.

There is hereby granted to the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Company a piece of land (marked Depot Ground) 175 feet in width on the north side of and adjoining the right of way, commencing opposite a point 180 feet west of the place of beginning above, and extending westwarly 1,000 feet, to be used by said company for the erection of a Depot and other buildings connected with business of the road.

The Streets, as marked in the plat, to be each sixty feet wide, except Front Street and Railroad Street. Front Street to be fifty-five feet in width in a line with the north side of the Depot Grounds, and Railroad Street to be thirty feet wide upon the South side of the right of way to railroad company.

The Lots are each forty-five feet front by one hundred and twenty feet in depth."

No doubt the key factor in Sikes' decision to found his town when and where he did, was the practical certainty that the Cairo and Fulton Railroad, then under construction, would pass through the site he had selected.

Necessary legislation for the railroad was approved by Congress on Feb. 9, 1853, and meetings for discussion of the project were held at Charleston, Bloomfield and Benton in the following months of that year. Sikes, of course, participated in these efforts, also invested in the project, as is apparent from documents in his estate

papers. Two of these, in fact, show that the railroad company was indebted to him.

One of the above reads as follows:

"OFFICE CAIRO and FULTON RAILROAD COMPANY of Mo.,
Charleston, Mo., July 10, 1860

This certifies that the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Companye of Missouri is indebted to John Sikes in the sum of Two hundred and seventeen 57/100 Dollars, payable with interest from date at ten per cent, on the return of this certificate, endorsed bye him, being amount found due on adjustment of his accounts."

Signed M. Brayman, Pres. Bd. of Trustees

Apparently the railroad was built into Sikeston in the fall of 1860, but I have seen no evidence that a depot was completed there until after the Civil War.

What, then, was at Sikeston when the war started (April 12, 1861)? The answer seems to be that very few lots had been sold, and even fewer buildings had been erected. County records indicate that, on Nov. 23, 1860, Samuel Keith bought Lots 1 & 2 in Block 11, and paid Sikes $200 for them. Also on Nov. 23, James E. Waugh purchased Lots 19 & 20 in Block 5, and paid $150 for them. Then, on Jan. 9, 1861, Levi S. Green sold William Hughes a half interest in Lot 15, Block 6, which Green, of course, had purchased from Sikes at an earlier date.

Samuel Keith is said to have built the first dwelling house in Sikeston, and since Lots 1 & 2, Block 11, were the only lots he owned then, and in 1868, it seems pretty safe to assume that this first dwelling was erected on one or the other of these lots.

The first dram shop in Sikeston was licensed to Francis Jones & John T. Anderson on Jan. 23, 1861. No merchants' licenses are recorded for this period, and since Sikes did not have to buy a lot, no specific date or location can be determined from county records for the store Sikes is said to have established in his new town.

The first postmaster at Sikeston was Samuel J. Watson, who received his appointment on May 12, 1860. He had previously served as postmaster at Pleasant Plains, until that postoffice was discontinued on Dec. 13, 1859.

Watson held the office until Feb. 13, 1864, when service to the Sikeston office was suspended and the postoffice itself discontinued.

One can be almost certain that this termination of mail service to and from Sikeston was due to guerilla activities in and about the town. Possibly resulting from the same raid, during which Sikes' store had been robbed and he himself hung and tortured until his wife persuaded them to desist by giving them $100.

Then, one night, a week later, Sikes' house burned; whether as the result of the activities of some incendiarist, or, by accident, is unknown. But Sikes may have thought it the former, for he packed up bag and baggage and headed for St. Louis, where he remained until the war was over.

It is likely, too, that all other businesses in the new town closed down, at least during the last year and a half of the war, when guerilla outrages seemed to have reached their peak in the county.

It is interesting, and probably not without significance, that Sikes went to a city then under the control of Union armies. At any rate, we know that many of the Scott Countians who harbored Southern sympathies sought safety in the deep South, rather than in the North. And if Sikes did harbor Northern sympathies, he was indeed in a dangerous situation at Sikeston, where guerillas could, and did, raid almost at will.

The few other business establishments in Sikeston may have closed earlier in the war. At any rate, we know that Jones & Anderson did not renew their dram shop license in 1862, nor in any subsequent year.

Sikeston's first post-war dram shop license was issued to Vincent Heisserer and J. Cresap on July 24, 1865. Heisserer had dram shops elsewhere in the county, and it is likely that it was Cresap who ran their Sikeston shop, especially since Heisserer apparently was a resident of Commerce at that time.

Then, on Sept. 18, 1865, a dram shop license was granted to John Sikes. William Hughes soon became Sikes' partner in this venture, as is indicated by a license dated March 17, 1866, issued to Sikes & Hughes.

Evidently Sikestonians came through the war in a extremely thirsty condition, for a third dram shop was licensed for the town within less than nine months after the war was over. It went to Samuel Stringer, and was issued on Dec. 18, 1865.

Perhaps this explains the "Remonstrance" signed by William Hughes and other residents of Sikeston, and delivered to the County Court on Oct. 14, 1867, which "requested" that no further dram shops be licensed at Sikeston, at least for a time. And, since only Samuel Stringer had his dram shop license renewed in 1868 and 1869, it may be that the court ruled favorably on this request.

Not until 1868 can we determine the ownership of the few lots that had been sold in the town up until that time. This, thanks to an 1868 "Assessor's Plat Book of Scott County," which the present assessor's employes kindly permitted me to study on a number of occasions.

LOTS IN SIKESTON SOLD BY JOHN SIKES

Lots south of the railroad tracks:

Lots 1 & 2, Block 11. Owned by Samuel Keith

Lots 3 & 4, Block 11. Owned by Sarah E. Merritt

Lot 5, Block 11. Owned by William A. Hughes

Lot 11, Block 9. Owned by Edwin B. Keith

Lot 14, Block 10. Owned by Thomas S. Rhoades

Lots north of the railroad tracks:

Lots 19 & 20, Block 5. Owned by Samuel Stringer. (The original owner of these lots was James E. Waugh, who purchased them on Nov. 23, 1860.)

Lot, Block 6. Owned by Levi Green & Wm. Hughes.

Lots east of the "Depot Grounds:"

Lot 3, Block 7. One-half of this lot was owned by A.J. Youngman, and the other half by William Winchester.

Lots west of the "Depot Grounds:"

Block 8, all lots unsold, as of 1868.

According to the above, Sikes had sold only eleven lots up until his death, which occurred on Dec. 23, 1867. Which, of course, means, since there was a total of 187 lots shown in his 1860 plat, that he still owned 176 of them. However, an administrator's report dated Nov. 29, 1870, shows his heirs as then owning only 155 lots, which indicates that 21 lots had been sold by them in the period Jan. 1, 1868 to Nov. 29, 1870.

Sikes' death, mentioned above, resulted from wounds sustained when he was shot by a drunk and disorderly fellow named Maulsby,

whom he had just ejected from his place of business. This happened on Dec. 20, 1867, and Sikes survived only three days thereafter.

In addition to his town lots, Sikes also owned 578 acres of land, all in Township 26.

The appraisment list of the personal property belonging to the Estate of John Sikes, as "produced by Catherine Sikes, Administratrix of Said Estate, on the 28th day of February, A.D. 1868," is not without interest to us here, since it shows some of the things he was interested in at the time of his death.

One farm bell	$10
One cow & calf	20.
One two-horse harrow	1.50
One gray horse	75.00
One sorrel horse	60.00
One reaper	10.
One lot of hogs (69 head)	120.00
One yoke of oxen	60.00
1,200 bushels of corn	600.00
One Thresher	2.50
Two shovel plows	.37½
One pen of corn	200.00
One buggy & harness	125.00
One ox wagon	40.00
One log chain	1.50
One horse power (8 horse)	35.00
One corn sheller	5.00
Three Bales of Cotton	187.00
One pair of gears	3.00
Three plows	10.00
Two Plows (Avery)	8.00
One double tree	.75¢
One yoke of oxen	75.00
One BRICK KILN	225.00
30,000 BRICK, not valued	
One double barrelled shotgun	29.00
One Colts revolver	10.00
One rifle gun	10.00
One saddle (man's)	15.00
One gold watch & chain	150.00
One pair of stretchers	2.50
One broad axe	2.50

Signed by

H. Winchester

Thos. J. Moore

Calvin Green

WORK BILL SUBMITTED BY SAMUEL KEITH TO THE ADMINISTRATRIX OF

JOHN SIKES' ESTATE

1866

June 9th. Four days work, Bruce 2 days---------$17.50
June 15th. Two days works, Bruce 2 days-------- 10.00
July 7th. Hanging Wall-paper & c. ------------- 5.00
Aug. 4th. Repairing wheelbarrow---------------- 2.00
Aug. 4th. Making 3 pair of brick moulds-------- 5.00
Aug. 11. 3 days, Bruce 2 days (on Mud-mill)---- 13.00
Aug. 25. 6 days, Bruce 5 days------------------ 28.00
Aug. 25. Five scantlings----------------------- 1.00
Sept. 1. Five days work, Bruce 4 days---------- 23.00
Oct. 6. Cistern curb & Eaves Trough------------ 4.00
Nov. 10. One small gate------------------------ 2.50
Nov. 10. Two days work per Bruce--------------- 2.00
Nov. 24. 4 days work, 4 for Bruce-------------- 20.00
Dec. 3rd. One large gate----------------------- 4.00
Dec. 22nd. One Batten door & putting on 3 locks 3.00
Due year ending Dec. 22, 1866, $142.00

1867

Sept. Repairing wheelbarrows------------$2.00
Repairing sweep on Mud-Mills------ 2.00
$4.00

1868

March 15th. Building one Box house 18 by 20 feet.---$50.00
March 15th. Building 2 pairs of steps, $1.50 each--- 3.00
$53.00

Total $199.00

Payment in full received Oct. 28, 1868.

CASH & NOTES ON HAND AT TIME OF DEATH

United States Legal Tender $850.
Note on E.B. Keith dated Jan. 5, 1867, $100.
Note on T.H. Brown & Robert McDonnough, $100.
Note on Calvin Green, Jan. 9, 1867, $500.
Note on Joseph D. Cresap & W.C. Puckett, Feb. 5, 1865, $37.95
Note on Wm.A. Hughes, Mar. 27, 1866, $175.
Note on Stringer and Coleman, Nov. 29, 1866, $279.63
Note on W.T. Wilson, F.M. Smith & T.O. Moore, 1867, $315.00
Note on S.S. Watson, Sept. 14, 1860, $100.
Allowance on B.H. Cocke's Estate, Jan. 23, 1866, $260.00
Note on Robert McDonough & Samuel Stringer, Nov. 14, 1867, $85.00
Note on Wm. A. Hughes & Co., Oct. 10, 1865, $1,000.
Note on Jasper Trotter, Sept. 10, 1867, $85.00

Three Notes on Calvin Green, maturities of 2, 3 & 4 years, respectively. $500 each, and all signed on Jan. 9, 1867.
Allowance on James E. Waugh's Estate, July 9, 1867, $816.00 (interest on same at 10%)
Note on B.F. Allen & William B. Connelly, Mar. 30, 1859, $65.66 ($50. paid on above Mar. 2, 1860)
Note on William A. Hughes, March 29, 1867, $500.
Note on John Foley, Nov. 7, 1861, $30.84
Note on N.W. Anderson, Feb. 10, 1867, $82.
Note on Scoville & Thompson, Jan. 12, 1860, $320 (Interest computed at $234.66, & nothing paid on principal)
Allowance on Jas. E. Waugh Estate, Nov. 15, 1866, $57.70
Note on Wm. A. Hughes, Levi S. Green & H.A. Smith, Nov. 4, 1867, $100.
Note on Levi S. Green, May 14, 1866, $100.
Note on W.D. Webster, July 20, 1867, $225.
Note on Price Camster, June 6, 1860, $110. (Nothing paid, interest at 6%, $42.)
Note on S.S. Watson, April 12, 1861, $80.51 (Interest at 10%, $49.62)
Note on Rollin Sherwood & Horace Sherwood, Nov. 12, 1866, $500.
Allowance on Samuel E. McMullin's Estate, April 5, 1860, $20.
Note on Alfred Sikes, March 5, 1864, $550.
Note on A.D. Miller, Jan. 1, 1861, $25., with $18 paid Jan. 22, 1865
Note on H.C. Deal, May 16, 1865, $2,175, with $900 paid April 21, 1866
Note on Samuel Keith, June 23, 1865, $77.25

The above "inventory list" was signed by H. Winchester and H.A. Smith, "Witnesses." Date: Feb. 21, 1868.

Included in the John Sikes estate papers are some bills for items purchased or services rendered. These are of interest because they shed light on prices and values in the immediate post-war years.

One of these, a bill for tuition for Needham Sikes at Arcadia College, "Dr. L.M. Lewis, President," is dated June 12, 1872. The interesting feature of this bill is that it is on the College's letterhead, which lists that institution's "Rates of Tuition." These are given as follows:

Primary Department $10	Preparatory $22.
Collegiate $28	German $15
French $15	Book-keeping, entire course $30
Matriculation Fee $1.	

Board, per term, 5 months, $70.

Another bill, submitted by Young Bros. & Co., Manufacturers & Wholesale Dealers in Clothing, Shirts & Furnishing Goods, 510 Main St., St. Louis, and dated May 28, 1872, is for coat, pants and vest ($16.50), purchased by Smith & Shumate, Sikeston, for Needham Sikes.

The list of businesses located in Sikeston in 1874 is taken from Wilson's "Directory of SE. Missouri & Southern Illinois," which was published in 1875. Sikeston's 1874 population is estimated at 250, which, likely, is a bit on the high side, judging by Wilson's estimates for other SE. Missouri towns.

Businesses listed are as follows:

W.A. Coffey, Proprietor of the Star Saloon
J.O. Davis, fancy groceries
Charles Ebert, bakery, grocery & restaurant
H.C. Edwards, justice of the peace, attorney & collector
A. Friedenberg, general merchandise
Kendal & Brother, druggists
H. Plotz, boot & shoe maker
W.C. Pucker, hotel proprietor
J.L. Shumate, general merchandise
Smith & Applegate, general merchandise
R.J. Tucker, hotel proprietor

The account of Sikeston in the 1874 "Centennial Gazetteer of the United States," is considerably more succinct and less flattering. It reads: "Sikeston, post village in Scott Co., Mo., 14 miles south of Morley." And there was a little truth in that description, for, at that time both Morley and Commerce were yet larger and busier places than Sikeston.

POSTMASTERS AT SIKESTON, 1867 to 1883:

The Postoffice at Sikeston was reopened on Feb. 20, 1867, with William A. Hughes as postmaster. Hughes served until July 16, 1871,

when Samuel Keith was appointed to the office. Keith was followed by Charles Cheney, whose appointment was dated Sept. 28, 1871. Cheney held the office until Feb. 23, 1876, at which time he was replaced by John D. Elbert, who retained it ~~office~~ until Jan. 21, 1883.

WAS SIKESTON FIRST KNOWN AS OGDEN ? I can't answer that question, but I can pass along to the reader the information that has caused me to wonder about the matter.

We know, of course, that the old post village of Ogden was located in New Madrid County, on the Benton-New Madrid road, a few miles south of the present town of Sikeston.

However, on Jan. 23, 1860, an entry in the records of the County Court of Scott County shows that John T. Anderson and Francis Jones had, on that date, applied "for a dram shop license in the new town of Ogden."

Then, on Jan. 23, 1861, there is this entry: "John T. Anderson and Francis Jones applied for a dram shop license at their stand in Sikeston."

The timing of this makes it appear to be a renewal, and the phrase, "at their stand," suggests that they had been conducting business at that site for some time.

Sikeston did not become the official name of the town until April 30, 1860, when John Sikes' plat of the town was "received and recorded by A.S. Henderson, Clerk & Ex-officio Recorder." Hence, there was a short period, while the town was being planned and platted, in which it could have been known as Ogden.

LOTS IN SIKESTON, AS ASSESSED IN 1870

Vacant lots, which then made up the bulk of the town, were assessed at $10 to $30, with a very few being valued as high as $50. Only those lots valued high enough to indicate buildings, will be listed.

Charles D. Mathews, Lot 19, Block 5, $75

Charles D. Mathews, Lot 20, Block 5, $800

Charles D. Mathews, Lot 11, Block 6, $450

John Sikes estate, Lot 12, Block 6, $90

Samuel Stringer, , Lot 13, Block 6, $460

John Sikes estate, Lot 14, Block 6, $180

Wm. A. Hughes & Levi S. Greene, Lot 15, Block 6, $800

John Sikes estate, Lot 16, Block 6, $75

John Sikes estate, Lot 17, Block 6, $425

Reuben S. Coleman, Lot 3, Block 7, $250

John Sikes estate Lot 6 Block 9, $460

John Sikes estate Lot 11, Block 9, $550

Samuel Keith Lot 1, Block 11, $600

Samuel Keith Lot 2, Block 11, $170

Sarah E. Merritt Lot 3, Block 11, $625

Charles D. Mathews Lot 5, Block 11, $400.

The above indicates that in 1870 there were at least 16 buildings in Sikeston, all of which, judging by the values placed on them, were either of frame or log construction. One wonders, though, what happened to the bricks Sikes was having made at the time of his death. Perhaps they were used in small lots for fireplaces, chimneys and sidewalks.

OWNERSHIP AND ASSESSED VALUES OF BUILDINGS IN SIKESTON IN 1875

OWNER	Lot	Block	Value	
Charles D. Mathews	1	5	$250	
Charles D. Mathews	2	5	$250	
Charles D. Mathews	19	5	$200	
Charles D. Mathews	20	5	$800	
Charles D. Mathews	11	6	$500	
Charles D. Mathews	E½ 12	6	$800	
Charles Ebert	W½ 12	6	$850	-- Grocery Store, Bakery, Restaurant.
Samuel Stringer Estate	13	6	$500	
R.J. Tucker	14	6	$600	-- Hotel
Alfred Sikes & L. Slosseen?	15	6	$500	
John M. Crow	16	6	$100	
John Sikes Estate	17	6	$500	
John Sikes Estate	18	6	$100	
John Sikes Estate	19	6	$100	
John Sikes Estate	20	6	$100	
O.E. Kendall	1	7	$1,300	
Reese G. Applegate & H.A. Smith	2	7	$1,500	-- Cotton Gin
Reubin S. Coleman	East prt. 3	7	$300	
Applegate & Smith	W. 20 ft. 3	7	$100	
Samuel Keith	1	11	$500	
Samuel Keith	2	11	$150	
Sarah E. Merritt	3	11	$550	
Sarah E. Merritt	4	11	$150	

SIKESTON, 1875, Continued:

OWNER	Lot	Block	Value
Charles D. Mathews	5	11	$350
John Sikes Estate	6	11	$100
John Sikes Estate	7	11	$200
Samuel Keith	8	11	$350
John Sikes Estate	9	11	$800

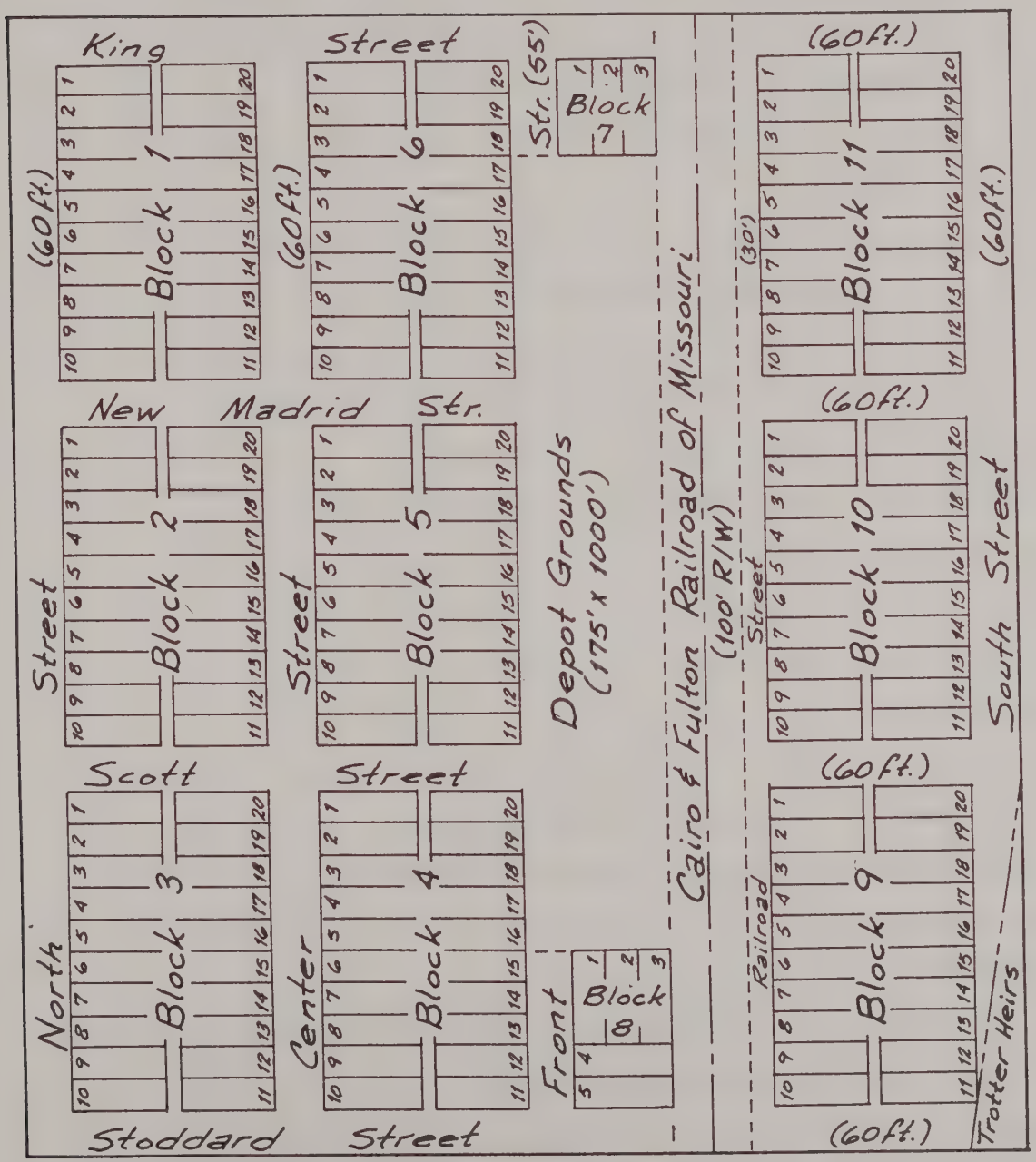
JOSEPH HUNTER'S ADDITION TO SIKESTON

C.D. Mathews	Lot 2	$1,025	-- Cotton Gin
Joseph Hunter	Lot 12	$500	
Charles D. Mathews	Lot 13	$500	
Charles D. Mathews	Lot 24	$200	

The above shows that Sikeston, in 1875, had a total of thirty-two (32) buildings, the most valuable of which was the $1,500 Applegate & Smith cotton gin building. The second most valuable was that owned by O.E. Kendall, which was valued at $1,300. Charles D. Mathews' $1,025 building on Lot 2 in the Hunter Addition was third in value, and may have housed his steam-powered cotton gin.

Original Plat of the Town of SIKESTON

Recorded Apr. 30, 1860



Typical lot size: 40ft. x 120 ft
Alley widths: 15ft.

Prepared by
J.B. Hirtz - 12-84

1868 OWNERSHIP, LOCATION AND VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS IN SIKESTON, ST. LAWRENCE & NEW HAMBURG; ALSO THE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS IN BENTON.

Prior to 1868, assessments of town lots were not segregated. As a consequence, it would require hours of searching to locate town lot assessment information, and this, of course, is our reason for not beginning with the records for 1861, which is as far back as these records go, those of earlier date having been destroyed in the Civil War.

At any rate, the records for 1868 show that, at that time, there were only eight buildings in Sikeston. These were listed as follows:

Lot 20, Block 5, Assessed Value $700--owned by Samuel Stringer

Lot 15, Block 6, Value $700--owned by Levi Green & Wm. Hughes

Lot 6, Block 9, Value $280--owned by John Sikes

Lot 11, Block 9, Value $420--owned by Edwin B. Keith

Lot 1, Block 11, Value $350--owned by Samuel Keith

Lot 2, Block 11, Value $140--owned by Samuel Keith

Lot 3, Block 11, Value $490--owned by Sarah E. Merritt

Lot 5, Block 11, Value $350--owned by Wm. A. Hughes.

These values show that all of the buildings in Sikeston at that time were of the inexpensive variety, and either of log, frame or board and batten construction. This we can determine by the fact that the antebellum brick house on Lot 2 in Commerce (still standing) was assessed at $1,600.

The 1868 assessment records show only three buildings in St. Lawrence.

Lot 1, Value $140--owned by Barbara Lighter

Lot 8, Value $105--owned by Andrew Hoefler. Probably Hoefler's home

Lot 13, Value $315--owned by Andrew Hoefler. His dram shop?

Assessor's records for New Hamburg show all buildings owned by only ~~four~~ three people.

David Holder owned the south part of Lot 2, Value $280 Dram shop?

Lot 13, Value $70 Probably a barn.

Lot 14, Value $350 His home?

Francis Heuring owned Lot 3, Value $700. Probably his store.

Lot 4, Value $140 His home?

Lot 5, Value $70 Barn?

Lot 6, Value $140 Another house?

Balzer Heuring owned Lot 10, Value $420 Distillery ?

Lot 11, Value $210. His home?

This 1868 assessment indicates only twenty buildings in Benton, and, judging by the values placed on these, at least seven of them must have been barns or other inexpensive outbuildings.

ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE LAST WILL OF JOSEPH WALKER

Sept. 4, 1843

Joseph Walker's plantation was located in the very southeasternmost corner of what is now Scott County, and in Mississippi County. However, in 1843, his land was all in Scott County.

"I (Joseph Walker) give and bequeath to Mary Stewart all my house hold and kitchen furniture or five hundred dollars in money at her choice which to take which is in full payment of the ballance yet unpaid for Seventeen Years Service for me as a house keeper. I am indebted to her for also my loom and all its tackle Wheels cards & c. Also as many of my largest hogs as will be sufficient to make her and her family one year's meat. Also my Berkshire hogs and two cows and calves and all my sheep and cows that is in the cow house, my mare called Snap & her colt, her saddle, bridle and her choice of my two clocks.

2nd. I give and bequeath to her son Francis Marion Stewart eighty acres of land being the West half of the SW. quarter of Sec. 8, Twp. 27 N., Range 16 E. Also his choice of my two guns and one large Silver table spoon.

3rd. I give and bequeath to Solemny Jane, also daughter of said Mary Stewart one bed and bedding furniture and a good new woman's saddle bridle and riding whip to be delivered to her when she becomes a young woman. Also one set of silver tea spoons one cream spoon and a mustard spoon and a large table spoon.

4th. I give and bequeath to Joseph Walker Stewart son of said Mary Stewart the land which I purchased at the Sale of the estate of Jesse Haile, deceased, containing about 19 acres. I also give him one of my guns and a large Silver table spoon and all my books to be equally divided among the three children above mentioned (Viz.) Francis Marion

Stewart, Solemny Jane Stewart and Joseph Walker Stewart, and it is my will and desire that all my estate not herein after devised shall be used carefully in the education and maintenance and support of said above mentioned children.

5th. I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Boatman one cow, and to David Boatman her husband all my gun smith tools and Black Smith tools and I hold three different notes on him for corn. I do forgive and hereby discharge him from the payment of the Note which was due on the first day of January in the year 1842. It is my will and desire that he shall have the privilege of paying the remaining two notes in corn When they are collected and as I have frequently paid debts for him and loaned him money at different times, It is my will and desire that all such accounts between himself and me except the two corn notes be set aside and no demand made thereof.

6th. I give and devise to my daughter Clarissa Seaving my large Bible which she has in her possession and to her husband William Seaving I give the sum of two dollars.

7th. I give and devise to my two sons Samuel and Jesse now living in the State of Indiana my farm and land Situate in Park County in the State of Indiana with the condition that they give my daughter Mary Saneathe sum of one hundred dollars or in failing to do so she is to have an equal third of said farm and land.

8th. I do hereby appoint John Rodney my Executor and Mary Stewart my Executrix to this my last will and testament.

Witnesses
John Rodney
William Means

Signed: Joseph Walker

Sept. 4, 1843

"wanted to call the church St. Elizabeth's in honor of the Patron of the Ladies' Sodality." But his parishioners had all sorts of different ideas, and violent arguments developed. "Finally Wendolin Bucher arose and put an end to the quarreling by shouting, 'enough of this quarreling. Are you not ashamed of yourselves. Now I will put a stop to this. I gave the land, and now I shall name the church. I will name it in honor of the Patron Saint of my son, St. Lawrence.' That," according to the parish historian, "settled the affair."

So, the church was named St. Lawrence, but, that did not, as we shall see, end Wendolin Bucher's affection for the name.

The church tower "was successfully built and the roof laid and the flooring was piled in the church to begin laying it, when the Civil War broke out in 1861." During that conflict, as we know from the section on the Civil War in Scott County, the church building, though yet under construction, was badly damaged; in fact, partly burned.

In the years immediately before the war a small settlement had grown up around the church, and Wendolin Bucher, a foresighted man, who owned land north and east of the church, decided to survey and plat a townsite on this tract. And having made this decision, what was more natural than that he name his new town after his apparently favorite Saint, St. Lawrence.

The caption on the town plat, filed in the County Recorder's Office on May 25, 1860, tells us that the plat "was marked out by Wandal Bucher, proprietor of the town." Streets were to be twenty feet wide, except Main Street, which was to have a width of fifty feet.

Bucher's hopes for the town must have been quite modest, for he laid it off into only fourteen lots. Likely there was a building or two on the site at the time it was laid off as a town. But we have no way of knowing what they were or where they were located.

The plat for the town of New Hamburg, which lay to the east of St. Lawrence, was not made until after the Civil War. It was a more ambitious project, involving 48 lots.

The caption on the map in the County Recorder's office reads as follows:

I, Francis Heuring do hereby certify that the within is a correct plat of a tract of ground laid out by me as Proprietor and to be known as the Town of New Hamburg in the County of Scott and State of Missouri beginning at the Post (A) at the northwest corner of Section Two in Township No. 28 North of Range No. 13 East, and running thence East 684 feet 9 inches to a Post (B) thence South 1,145 feet to a Post (C) thence West 684 feet 3 inches to Post (D) thence North 1,145 feet to the place of beginning. And that the Streets as marked therein are each fifty feet wide. And that this Plat is made in lieu of a Plat of said town heretofore made and filed by me as Proprietor as aforesaid with the Recorder of the County of Scott and which Plat is lost or destroyed. Witness my signature this 9th day of May A.D. 1866." Signed: Francis Heuring.

Does this mean that the Town of New Hamburg was surveyed off at an earlier date and the Plat lost or destroyed during the Civil War? The "History of the New Hamburg Parish" indicates that this was the case; in fact states quite definitely that "Francis Heuring laid out the town in this part in 1862 and called it Hamburg, though the northern part was known as St. Lawrence."

This 1862 plat may have been lost during the Bolin raid of mid-May, 1864, an account of which was published in the May-June, 1979 issue of the Ozark Mountaineer, and passed on to me by Mr. Wilson C. Moore, of Cabool, Mo.

According to this account, "The Bolin Boys struck the St. Francis River region in the vicinity of Hornersville. When the Federals learned of the bands presence in the area, several detachments of militiamen were sent in pursuit, but failed to make contact with the raiders. As the Federals returned to their respective posts, one column of cavalry was followed closely by Bolin's guerillas as far as the village of Hamburg.

As soon as the Federals were out of hearing distance, the Bolin Band attacked the village, burning the Catholic church, setting fire to several other buildings, pillaging the residences and then disappearing into the swamps. The Federals had no more than reached their camp when news of the Hamburg catastrophe arrived. Fifty Union cavalrymen were sent scurrying back to Hamburg in a fruitless effort to catch the elusive Rebels.

Col. J.B. Rogers, in reporting this affair to his commanding officer, Brigadier General Thomas Ewing, insisted he would yet kill all of the Bolin gang."

Raids such as this seem to have been of rather frequent occurrence throughout much of the year 1864, and caused the shutting off of mail service to all of the towns in the county, except Commerce. Also may well account for the scarcity of building in these towns, other than Commerce, at the close of the war.

County records, insofar as I have been able to determine, provide no indication, such as licenses, etc., of any businesses located in St. Lawrence or Hamburg before or during the Civil War.

The first such indication is an application, submitted by Wolfgang Dirnberger on Dec. 19, 1864, for license to operate a dram shop at "St. Lorenz." Dirnberger, a license application shows, was still operating this dram shop in 1868, but by then had taken in a brother as a partner in the business.

On April 25, 1865 a license was issued to David Holder for a dram shop in Hamburg. This was followed on Aug. 16, 1865 by issuance of a license to Andrew Hoefler for a dram shop in St. Lawrence.

An interesting sidelight on this plentitude of dram shops is provided by the following information from the "History of New Hamburg Parish."

"When Father (Martin) Scherer came in 1867 there were four saloons in New Hamburg and, of course, they created a problem, especially since they kept open all day Sunday. Considering that about 150 to 200 families came in every Sunday and many of them stayed all day, there was good trade for all. Moreover in the customs of those days they served free lunch, and people could also buy their meals.---They kept open during Mass and during the Sunday afternoon instructions and Vespers, and they sold to everyone as long as there was another nickel to be gotten. The consequence was that loafers and the 'soaks' would miss Mass, instructions and Vespers.---Moreover, some becoming intoxicated became vainglorious and boastful, others in the same shape contradicted them and then there were blows and bloody heads. So Father Scherer went after them hammer and tongs from the pulpit.---These sermons infuriated

the saloon-keepers, loafers and 'soaks' to such an extent that they threatened his life. Far from intimidating him he went after them the more and finally forced the civil authorities to close these places on Sundays. And now peace returned to the parish."

What else, in the way of businesses, other than saloons, could the towns of New Hamburg and St. Lawrence boast of in 1868? Well, there had been a postoffice there, opened April 26, 1866, with Francis Heuring as postmaster. However, it was discontinued on Oct. 7, 1868, probably because of lack of patronage. At any rate, the County Assessor's Plat Map of that year (1868), shows the ownership of the lots in the two towns to be as follows:

St. Lawrence--Seven lots owned by Wolfgang Dirnberger, four by Donat Scherer, and two by Andrew Hoefler. The lots in the then recently laid-out East Addition were still all owned by Lorenz Bucher. Wendolin (Vandnilas on his tombstone) Bucher had died on May 6, 1861.

New Hamburg--Forty-four of the town's lots were still owned by the town's founder, Francis Heuring. Only four of the town's 48 lots had been sold by 1868. And of these, Lots 13 and 14 were owned by David Holder, Lot 15 by George R. Scholz, and Lot 2 by Jacob Greismere.

On April 5, 1869 Andrew Hoefler and Louis Dannenmueller applied for a partnership license for a dram shop at St. Lawrence. Both died shortly thereafter, and on Jan. 3, 1870 the shop was relicensed to Joseph Dannenmueller.

The St. Lawrence postoffice, as we have mentioned, was discontinued on Oct. 7, 1868. When the postoffice was reestablished on June 23, 1874, it was as New Hamburg. John Stike was the postmaster. Clemens J. Heisserer succeeded Stike on June 11, 1878; and then, on Dec. 29, 1878, for unexplained reasons, the New Hamburg postoffice was discontinued. The next postoffice department entry carries the notation, "Order Withdrawn," and announces the appointment, as of Dec. 30, 1887, of Anna M. Heuring as postmistress at New Hamburg.

The 1875 edition of Campbell's Gazetteer lists New Hamburg as then having one hotel, three mills, five stores, three shops, one distillery and one church. "This" latter "built of stone, and said to be one of the finest in South-eastern Missouri. The Catholics also have a fine school-house with high and primary schools, and 250 pupils."

This school house, according to the "History of the New Hamburg Parish," was built in 1871 and 1872. "It was a two story building, 54 by 24 feet. It later became a public school, and though condemned at the time it was sold, it was still in excellent condition, when torn down in 1936 to make room for a modern WPA building. Very few nails were used in it. The joists, rafters and sills were all mortised and pegged with wooden pegs. The wood was perfectly sound and was used again by the pastor and the farmers in various constructions. It was built of yellow and blue poplar. At the time of its construction it cost $3,000."

Wilson's Directory of SE. Missouri does not give any information on New Hamburg, but does mention that in 1875 John Stike was a member of the county court, and another resident, Donat Scherer, was county coroner.

OWNERSHIP & VALUE OF LOTS IN NEW HAMBURG AND ST. LAWRENCE IN 1870

NEW HAMBURG

Francis Kuhn, Lot 1, $275

Heirs of Jacob Griesmer, N. part Lot 2, $75

David Holder, S. part of Lot 2, $350

Francis Heuring, Lot 3, $1,200

Same, Lot 4, $160

Same, Lot 5, $80

Same, Lot 6, $160

David Holder, N. part Lot 7, $25

Hugh C. Murphy, S. part Lot 7, $100

Balser Heuring estate, Lot 8, $40

Same, Lot 9, $60

Same, Lot 10, $1,400

Same, Lot 11, $300

Same, Lot 12,$40

David Holder, Lot 13, $900

Same, Lot 14, $75

George R. Scholz, Lot 15, $500

Balser Heuring estate, Lot 16, $40

Same, Lot 17, $40

Francis Heuring, Lot 18, $40

David Holder, Lot 19, $40

Same, Lot 20, $40

Francis Heuring, Lot 21, $40

Same, Lot 22, $40

Lorenz Eck, Jr., Lot 23, $40

Francis Heuring, Lot 24, $35

NEW HAMBURG

Francis Heuring, Lot 25, $35

Same, Lot 26, $35

Same, Lot 27, $35

Same, Lot 28, $35

Same, Lot 29, $35

Same, Lot 30, $25

Same, Lot 31, $25

Same (Francis Heuring), for Lots 32 to 48, all vacant, and assessed at $25 each.

ST. LAWRENCE

Barbara Leider, Lot 1, $250

Heirs of Wilfgang Dirnberger, Lots 2 to 6, all vacant, and valued at $25 each

Jacob Stehr, Lot 7, $35

Andrew Hoefler estate, Lot 8, $50

Donat Scherer, Lots 9 to 12, all vacant, and assessed at $25 each.

Andrew Hoefler estate, Lot 13, $700

Jacob Stehr, Lot 14, $700

The foregoing, when compared with assessment figures for 1868, shows an almost startling increase in the number and value of buildings in New Hamburg and St. Lawrence during this short period of two years. Francis Heuring and the heirs of Balser Heuring had better than doubled the value of the buildings on Lots 3 and 10.

Owners of Vacant Lots in Lorenz Bucher's New Addition to St. Lawrence

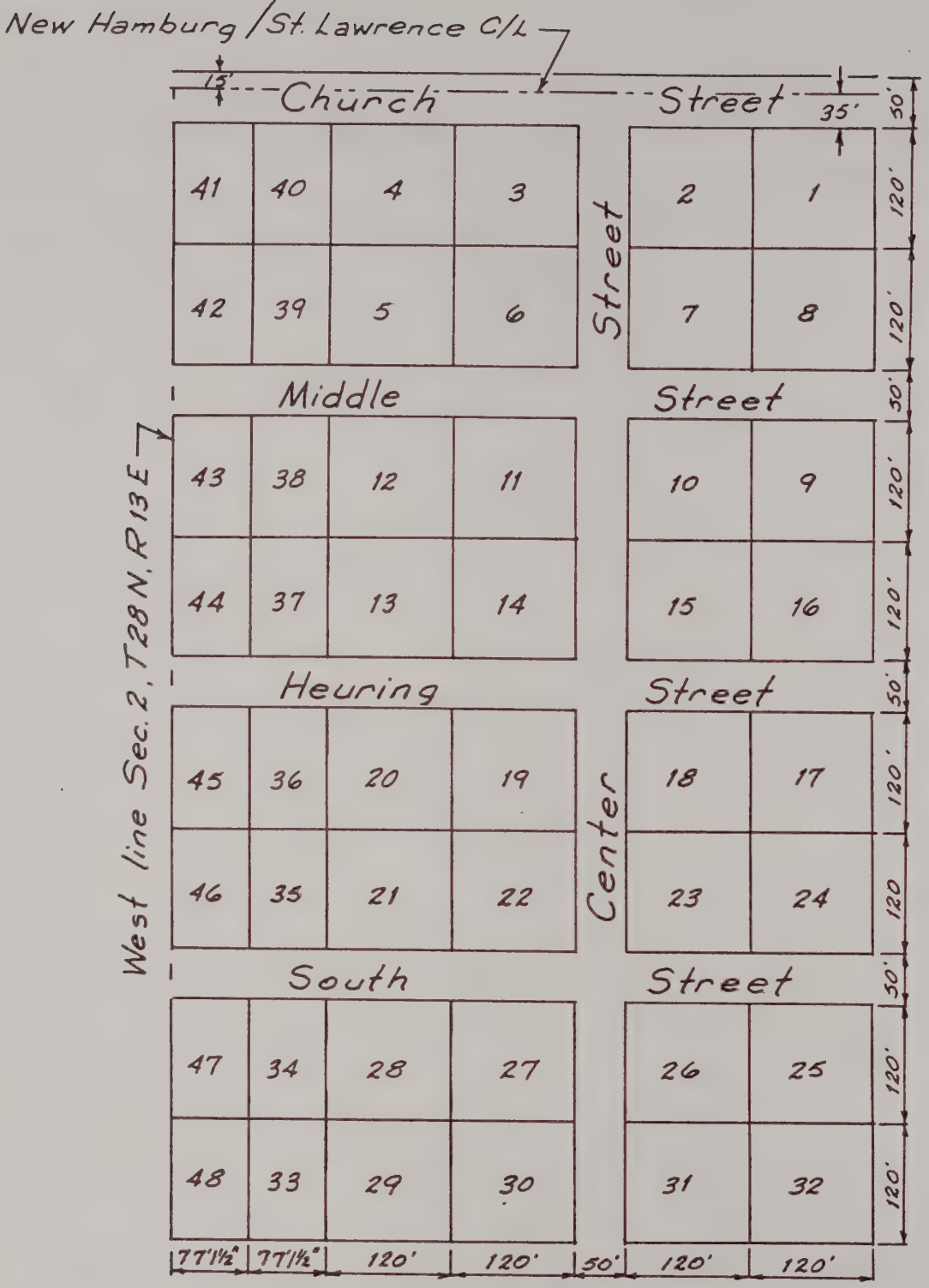
Samuel Diebold, Lot 6

Rev. P.R. Kendrick, Lot 1

Jacob Stehr, Lot 4

Magdalena Wilhelm, Lot 5

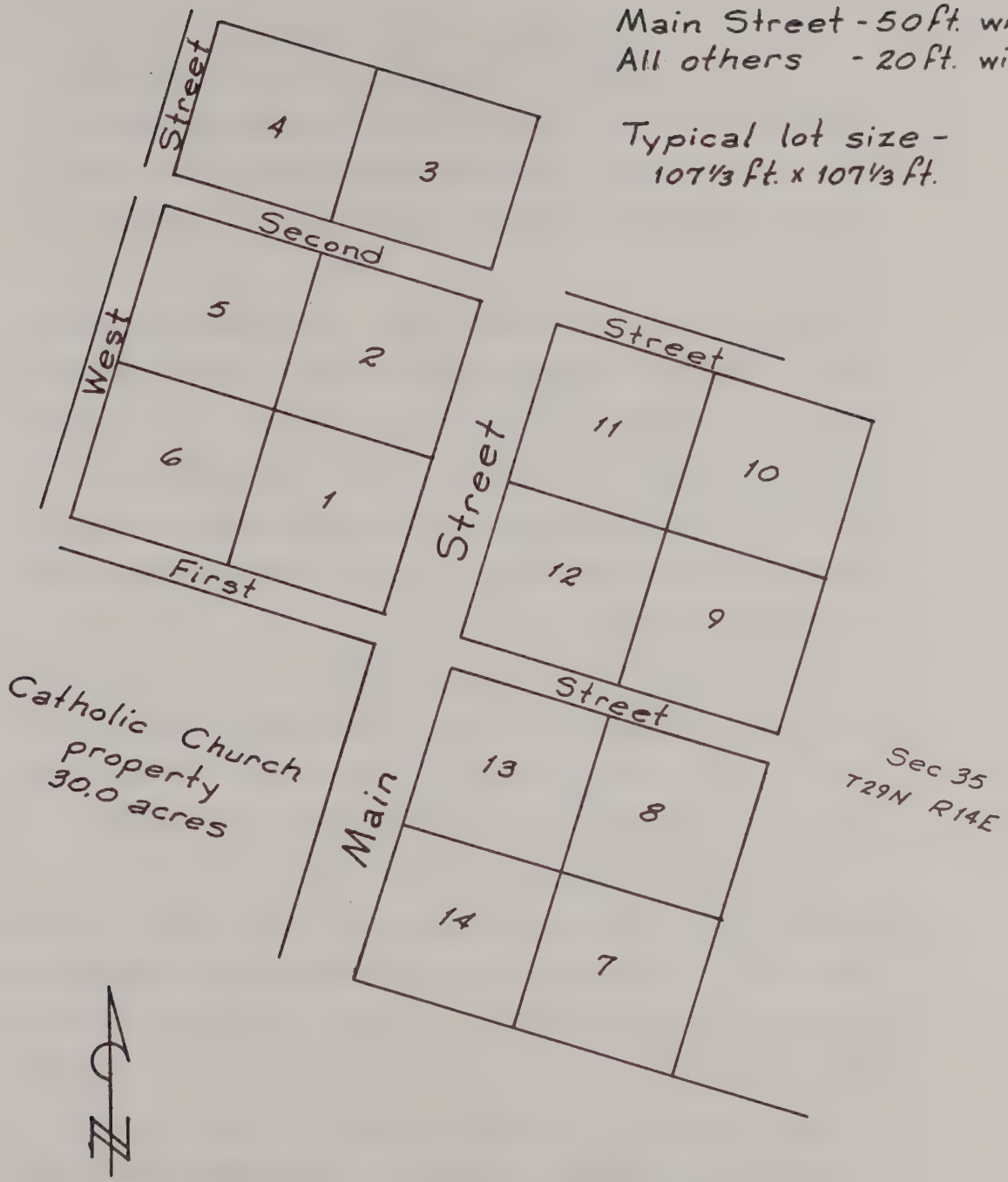
John Marquard, Lot 7



Original Plat of the Town of NEW HAMBURG

Laid out by Francis Huering and filed on May 9, 1866.

Prepared by
J. B. Hirtz - 2/84



Original Plat
of the Town of
ST. LAWRENCE

Filed May 25, 1860
"Marked out by Wandal Bucher, Proprietor of the town."

Prepared by
. B. Hirtz - 2/84

KELSO UNDER FOUR NAMES, 1840-1875

The beautifully printed and generally excellent "Kelso, Our Parish, One Hundred Years, 1878-1978" unfortunately gives scant coverage to the period preceding the formal laying out of the town in 1880

There is mention that a postoffice was established there on March 30, 1858, and that it was discontinued on Jan. 8, 1864, and once again reestablished on June 23, 1874. Also that the village began about one half mile south of the present town, and that its first business establishment was a saloon or tavern started by John and Louis Dannenmueller, in a building still standing, and now owned and occupied by the Leroy Dannenmueller family.

Sorting out the facts on this hasn't been easy, but from the study of old maps and documents I have been able to verify the following:

First, there are maps published in 1858, 1865 and 1870 showing the village at its present location, but identified as Spring Hill.

The first postoffice there, according to the records of the U.S. Post Office Dept., was indeed Spring Hill, and was opened, not in 1858, but on May 1, 1840. The first postmaster was Dr. Wilson Brown, later Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Missouri. He served until the postoffice was discontinued March 30, 1843. Dr. Brown had previously been postmaster at Ogden, New Madrid County, Mo., Oct. 11, 1836 to Dec. 5, 1839.

Reopening the postoffice on March 30, 1858 (Joseph H. Stokes, postmaster) brought the need for a new name, as by then there were two other Spring Hills in Missouri. One was in Stoddard County, and the name of the postoffice there was changed to Piketon. The Spring Hill postoffice in Livingston County, Mo., was allowed to continue under that name, but our Scott County Spring Hill's name was changed to Kelso.

Early residents no doubt gave the original name of Spring Hill to the town because of the numerous springs that then flowed from the sides of the hill on which it was located. In addition, there is an excellent spring--still flowing--about 400 yards northwest of the Leroy Dannenmueller home.

As to this home itself, one room on the south side is of log construction, and there is a small stone basement under this one room. However, both the basement and the room are too small to have housed Louis Dannenmueller's family, tavern and drygoods store. The remainder of the house is of relatively modern construction.

For some reason that escapes me, both Vollmer and Dannenmueller sold off several small Section 18 tracts, ranging from 5 to 20 acres. These were bought by Vincent Kupfer, Ignatius Logal, George Stubenrauch and Lorenz Hoefler. Possibly they were mill hands who wanted homes near their work.

This mill, a steam-powered sawmill, was purchased by Henry Vollmer on June 20, 1860. The previous owner had been Asa Foster, himself a long-time resident of the Kelso area, who died in 1878, and is buried in the old cemetery on the road north out of Kelso.

Vollmer apparently sold this sawmill to Charles Messmer. At any rate, Messmer had a mill in Kelso as early as 1866, for we found a county court order dated July 27, 1866, directing that Messmer's Mill be paid for lumber, and one dated Jan. 8, 1867, directing that "Messmer & Sons be paid $68.75 for lumber used by the county in bridge repair and construction."

There may well have been a store or trading post at Spring Hill as early as 1840, when the first postoffice was established there, since most of these early postoffices were operated in conjunction with a business of some sort.

However, the first positively documented business in the Spring Hill settlement was a grocery store that was there at least as early as 1849, for on August 14th of that year, the county court issued a license to Frederick Upman, allowing him to "operate a grocery store at his residence."

A township plat map made in 1850 shows Upman then owning the N½ of the SE¼ of Section 18, the SW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 18, and the S½ of the SW¼ of Section 18, all in Township 29 and Range 14. This would place his home and business approximately three quarters of a mile south of the present town of Kelso.

It should be mentioned, before passing on beyond the Spring Hill phase of the town, that Wilson Brown purchased 114 acres of Section 31, Township 30, Range 14 land from Andrew and John Ramsey, paying them $2,742 for the tract. This land is less than two miles from Spring Hill, and ownership of it at that juncture would have placed Brown in the right place at the right time to have accepted his May 1, 1840 appointment as postmaster at Spring Hill.

As of Sept. 13, 1860, when Henry Vollmer became postmaster, the town began to be referred to locally as Vollmersville.

Vollmer, in the 1840s, (had begun) buying up land in Sections 7 and 18, and in the 1850s, added to his holdings through large purchases in Sections 10 and 13; and Section 7, of course, is the section in which modern Kelso is located.

~~[illegible]~~

The records of the County Court show that on March 7, 1864 a "Dram Shop" license was issued "to Henry Vollmer at Vollmersville." On Dec. 20, 1864, Henry Vollmer and wife, Catherine, sold the first of a number of his Kelso area tracts to Louis Dannenmueller. And on Jan. 27, 1865 the dram shop license was renewed, but this time to Louis Dannenmueller "at Dannenmuellersville."

The last mention of a license issued to Louis Dannenmueller at Dannenmuellersville is dated April 10, 1868. This was followed by a license dated April 5, 1869 issued to Louis Dannenmueller for a dram shop at St. Lawrence (now New Hamburg), and one issued Aug. 5, 1870 to Charles Messmer "at Dannenmuellersville." The Louis Dannenmueller dram shop license in St Lawrence was renewed Jan. 3, 1870, but this time to Joseph Dannenmueller, because Louis Dannenmueller had died some time after April 5th in 1869. Charles Messmer administered his estate, and he and John B. Messmer purchased Dannenmueller's Section 7 property, John B. paying $1,125 for 120 acres on the southern edge of the present Kelso city limits. This purchase was made Jan. 29, 1874.

It should be mentioned that Dannenmueller ran a store and tavern in conjunction with his "Dannenmuellersville" dram shop. We know this from ads he placed in the 1867 and 1868 issues of the Commerce Dispatch. These ads list a line of drygoods and facilities for entertaining travelers.

The "Kelso" postoffice was discontinued July 8, 1861, and was not reopened until June 23, 1874, when Charles B. Messmer was appointed postmaster. Hence that designation was not required, and was not used, while the location was in the hands of Vollmer and Dannenmueller. It was, however, used again when the post office was reopened in 1874.

"Wilson's Gazetteer & Directory of SE. Missouri & Southern Illinois," published in 1875, lists Kelso by that name, and describes it as having a store and postoffice owned and operated by Charles B. Messmer. The population was estimated at about twenty. And the name of the town is indicated as derived from that of the township in which it was located.

Charles B. Messmer, by the way, was a bugler in the Civil War, and served with Company F, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery. He remained postmaster at Kelso until 1888, when he was replaced on June 8 of that year by John Welter, who served until Oct. 10, 1889, when Alexander C. Vasterling was appointed to the office.

The population of Kelso, according to the census of 1880, was 60, so the village had grown substantially despite the great depression of the 1870s.

The Vollmers, incidentally, continued, for some years, to use the family cemetery in what is now Diebold's orchard, even though the land by then was in the possession of others. Burials of Vollmer children there date in 1860, 1868, and possibly 1880. The latter monument has been broken, but the fragments appear to bear a date in 1880.

BILLS OF DRYGOODS & LIQUORS PURCHASED

BY LOUIS DANNENMUELLER IN 1869 & 1870

These bills were found in file box 22 of the Scott County Probate Court records at Benton. They are included because they show something of the nature of the merchandise handled by taverns and drygoods stores of this region 113 years ago.

Bill submitted May 19, 1870 to administrators of the estate of Louis Dannemueller by Herman Stamm & Co., "Rectifiers, and dealers in imported and domestic wines & liquors, No. 111 S. Second St., St. Louis, Mo."

Oct. 28, 1869:

1 barrel of whiskey, 42½ gallons at $1 per gallon--------$42.50

1 barrel of white whiskey, 41½ gals. at $1.25 per gal.--- 51.90

1/8 pipe of Liege? Cognac, 22 gallons, at $2.50 per gal.-- 55.00

1 ten gallon keg (keg $1.25) of Kuemmel, $2 per gal.----- 21.25

(Kuemmel is a liquor, made chiefly in Riga, Latvia, that is flavored with caraway seed, anise and others herbs and spices.)

1 box (25¢), jugs (40¢) and two gallons of Bourbon, $3.15 per gal.--$7.65

Drayage & Insurance----------$2.00

Dec. 28, 1869:

2 barrels of white whiskey, 90 gallons, at $1.22½ per gal.--$110.25

1 barrel of whiskey, 43 gals. at 95¢ per gal.---------- 40.25

Drayage & Insurance----------1.75

Feb. 5, 1870:

1 barrel of Bourbon whiskey, 40½ gals., $2 per gal.----------$81.00

½ barrel (barrel $1.50) Kuemmel, 23½ gals, $1.90 per gal.----- 46.15

1 set of dishes $1.50; 1 set of spokes $3.75; 1 set of felloes $2.65--- 7.40

1 barrel 30¢; 1 set of axles $6.40---------- 6.70

Drayage & Insurance---------- 1.70

Continued

Dannenmueller Liquor Bill, Continued:

Mar. 5, 1870:

1 barrel of white whiskey, 43½ gals., at $1.15 per gal.-------$50.05

1 barrel of whiskey, 47½ gals, 85¢ per gal.------------------ 40.40

1 ten gallon keg (keg $1.25)of Rhine wine, $2.40 per gal.----- 25.25

½ gross of pint flasks $3.50; 3 gross of taper corks $2.85---- 6.35

Drayage & Insurance--------- 1.65

Total Bill----------$616.05

Bill submitted Dec. 15, 1869 to Louis Dannenmueller estate by Charles A Cuno & Co., "Dealers in Fancy Dry Goods, Yankee Notions, Brushes, Hosiery, White & Woolen goods, Ladies' Trimmings, and Fancy Goods in General. No. 7 N. Main St., St. Louis, Mo.

½ ream of foolscap paper, at $4 per ream----------$2.00

5 dozen White Yarn, $1 per dozen---------- 5.00

5 doz. Mixed Yarn, $1 per dozen---------- 5.00

1 bundle of White Skein Cotton---------- .65

3 bundles of Assorted Skein Cotton, 75¢ per bundle---------- 2.25

1 gross of White Agate Buttons---------- .65

1 gross of pantaloon buttons---------- 2.00

1 gross of French Vest Buttons---------- .65

1 gross of French Coat Buttons---------- 1.25

1 gross of Pearl Shirt Buttons---------- 1.25

2/3 gross of Black Dress Buttons---------- .50

9 dozen Coats' Spools, 90¢ per dozen---------- 8.10

1 dozen Ivory Fine Combs---------- 2.00

1 dozen Fine Horn Combs---------- 1.50

2 dozen (undecipherable) Books---------- $1.50

½ dozen Calf Wallets---------- 3.00

1 dozen Briar Pipes---------- 3.75

Continued

1 doz. Wood Pipes	$2.50
1 dox. Boys' Suspenders	2.75
1 doz. (Oil?) Red Handkerchiefs	3.50
1 doz. Ladies' Linen Handkerchiefs	6.10
½ doz. Corsets	5.25
½ doz. men's gloves	3.88
½ doz. Knit Rusk Gloves	6.25
2½ doz. Balmoral Hose	4.18
1 doz. Towels	1.85
3 doz. Crochet Braid	.90
5 doz. Colored Braid	2.00
1 piece of Coat Binding	1.18
1 piece of Belting	2.00
1 piece of Black Velvet Ribbon	3.25
1 piece of White Edged Ribbon	3.30
1 pair of Fur Top Gloves	1.25
2 balls of skein cotton	1.30
1 doz. Linen Thread	2.60
4 packages of Hairpins	.80
2 packages of Pins	1.40
1 package of pins	.80
1 lot of Needles	2.25
1 gross of Shoe Laces	1.00
2 pieces of Taffeta Ribbon	5.20
1 piece of Taffeta	3.03
1 piece of Belt Ribbon	2.00
1 piece of Black Velvet Ribbon	1.75
2 doz. Stay Bindings	.50

Continued

Dannenmueller Dry Goods Bill, Continued:

5 doz. Skirt Braid----------	$3.75
9 dozen Coats' Spools (of thread)----	8.10
1 dozen Sleeve Holders----------	.75
1 dozen Garters----------	2.25
4 dozen Steel Thimbles----------	1.60
1 Chalk Line----------	.75
½ dozen Necktles----------	3.38
½ dozen Black Necktles----------	1.50
1 doz. Ladies White Cotton Hose------	6.00
1 doz. Horn Dressing Combs----------	1.40
1 doz. Horn Tuck Combs----------	1.75
1 doz. Canton Flannel Drawers--------	6.00
½ doz. Hemmed Handkerchiefs----------	2.50
1 1/12 doz. Ladies Handkerchiefs-----	2.71
1 doz. Ladies Hairnets----------	4.50
1 box of Oval? Soap----------	1.75

Total---$166.43

REAL ESTATE

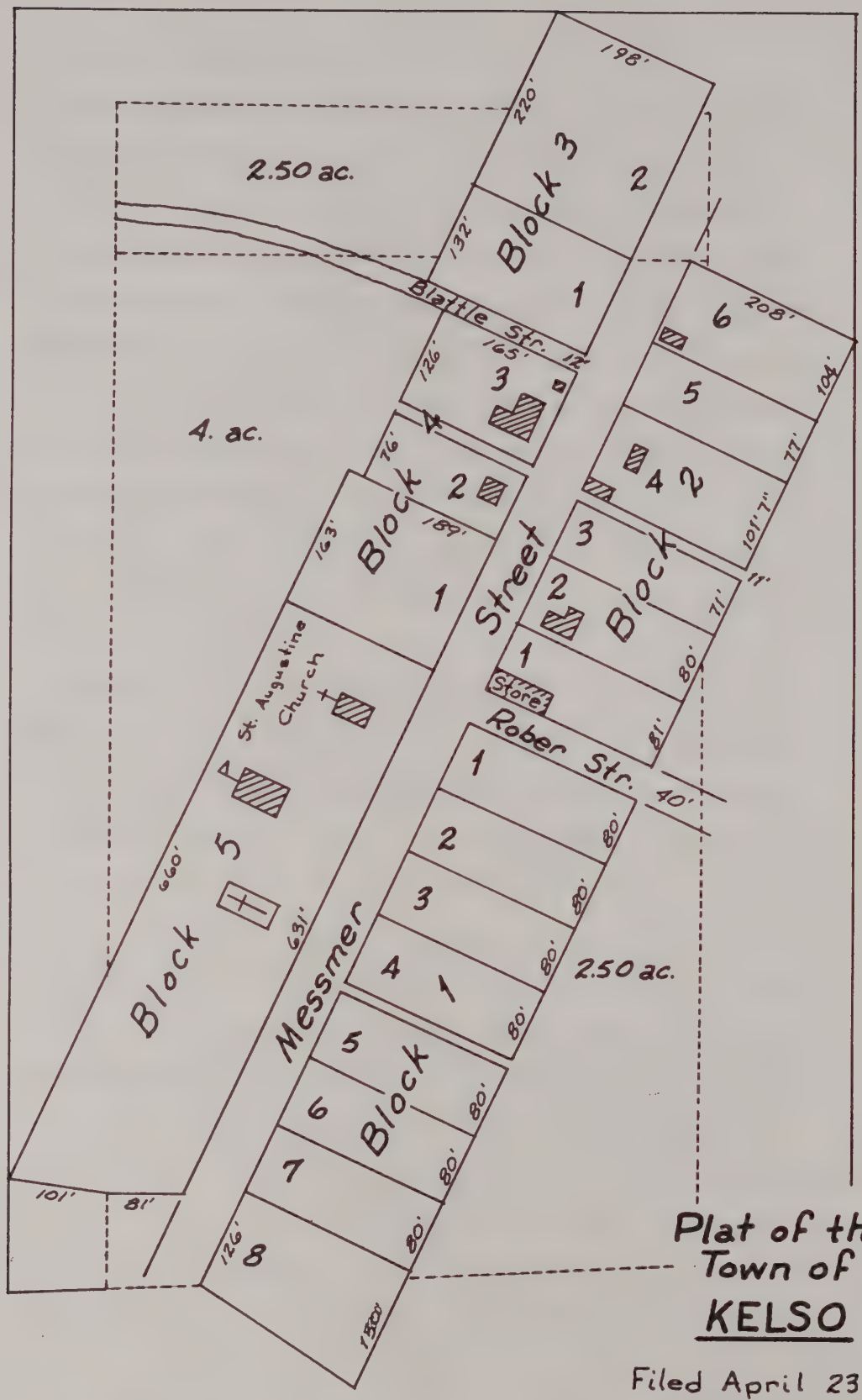
Louis Dannenmueller owned 11 tracts of land at the time of his death. Only four of these, however, are of interest to us here.

One of these, about two acres, in Section 35, in the town of New Hamburg, was sold to Joseph Dannenmueller for $880, and was undoubtedly the site of Dannenmueller's tavern in that town. He also owned two houses and acreage in New Hamburg, each of which sold for $233.50

His two tracts in Section 7, now a part of Kelso, were sold for $900 and $275 respectively, to Charles and Joseph Mesmer.

Louis Dannenmueller also owned the west half of Lot 32 in Commerce. This lot, located on the SE corner of Washington and Tywappity streets, was just across the street from the court house, and was in Commerce's business district. Which suggests that Dannenmueller also had a tavern at Commerce, but that was being operated by someone other than himself, since he was then in business at Dannenmuellersville. A July, 1869 entry in the county court records shows this to have been James Doom, as a dram shop license of that date was issued to Doom & Dannenmueller, "at Commerce."

A word of thanks should be expressed here to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Dannenmueller, present owners of the old Louis Dannenmueller homestead, who kindly allowed me to inspect their home and farm, and examine the abstracts to their land. The latter showed that Frederick Upman had once owned a part of their farm, but not at the right time for it to have been the site of his grocery store. Also, that the spring on the Dannenmueller farm, even 116 years ago, was of sufficient importance for Vollmer to put a clause in his deed to Louis Dannenmueller, giving him the right to continue to use water from it.



Plat of the Town of KELSO

Filed April 23, 1883

Prepared by
J.B. Hirtz - 2/84

SANDY WOODS, MAXVILLE, BROCKVILLE & MORLEY

Unsurveyed settlements and trading posts are often hard to locate precisely, even when they are shown on the old small scale maps. Also, to add to the confusion, they often were known, at various times in their history, under a confusing number of names.

Kelso, as is pointed out elsewhere in this history, was known by four different names before Kelso was permanently affixed thereto. And to add to this confusion, map makers sometimes misspelled town names. A case in point being an 1861 map, featuring small type and blurred printing, that had the name "Gelso" so indistinctly printed that it took me about two years to realize that it was a misspelled version of Kelso.

The same was true of Maxville, which was shown on an 1861 map, but so indistinctly that I was never sure of the name until I found it on a clear, hand-drawn map in the "United States Field Notes" book at the Recorder's Office in Benton.

The Pleasant Plains settlement, likewise, was also known as Sandy Prairie; in fact the Methodist Church erected there in the 1830s was known under the latter name. The same was true, too, of the early settlement at the future site of Charleston, which was known both as Matthew's Prairie and St. Charles' Prairie.

Modern topographers apply the name Sandy Woods to a large area between Blodgett and Morley. However, the files of the old Commerce "Dispatch" make it quite clear that that was not the case in the decade before Morley was founded. The name, as used in their columns, clearly applied to a specific settlement, as we can see from the following

news items and ads excerpted from that publication.

April 2, 1869 issue:

"Gardeners (at Morley) are laying out their grounds in the warm, sandy soil where, as the former owner of the place solemnly declared, the hogs often grew fat on the native wild strawberries and dewberries of the "Sandy Woods."

Ad in March 30, 1867 issue:

A.W. Harrison, a real estate dealer, "in residence in Sandy Woods," was offering three tracts of land for sale.

Ad in the April 6, 1867 issue:

Z.C. Short, physician & surgeon, "office at his residence in Sandy Woods," indicated his willingness to serve the sick and ailing of that region.

Clearly what was indicated here was a relatively specific location, since neither Harrison or Short deemed it necessary to give any further instructions for locating them, which certainly would have been required, had the present vast Sandy Woods area been what they were referring to.

Some thirty years ago the following item was published in the Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian.

"Brockville was once a town, a short distance north of Morley. There was a sawmill, still house, saloon, store and blacksmith shop in the village."

Unfortunately I have, so far, been unable to pinpoint the location of Brockville, but have concluded that it must have been very near the present site of Morley.

The records of the County Court show that on April 29, 1865 a dram shop license was issued to Thomas D. Riggins at Brockville. Then, on Dec. 28, 1865, a dram shop license was granted to A.B. Harrison at Brockville, "in Moreland Township." This was followed in Sept., 1866 and Feb., 1867, by dram shop licenses, perhaps renewals of the above, issued to J.S. Harrison at Brockville.

Regrettably, only one notice of Brockville has been found in the columns of the Commerce "Dispatch," and that was simply an item stating that the county assessor would be in Brockville Sept. 26, 1868, to assess property in that area.

The last dram shop license for Brockville was issued to John Riggs June 16, 1868, which, as we shall see, was about the time that Morley came into existence. This suggests that Brockville was, indeed, close to the present site of Morley; as also does the fact that all three of Brockville's dram shop operators were residents of Morley at an early date.

The earliest documented business at Maxville was a grocery store, the license for which was issued to William Ashley on Aug. 7, 1849. Unfortunately, this license, as issued by the County Court, gave its location as "at his stand," and it took a bit of doing to learn precisely where Bill's "stand" had stood.

Eventually, research in the Recorder's Office turned up an 1850 Township Plat Map that showed William F. Ashley owned a 40 acre tract (SE¼ of the SW¼ Section 33, Township 28 N., Range 13 E.) that straddles present Highway 61 a short distance west of the southwest corner of Morley.

(And for those who have a taste for the minutiae of history, we might mention that, on April 28, 1851, William Ashley married Rebecca McMullin, in a ceremony performed by William Winchester, justice of the peace.)

Ashley retained his Maxville property until Feb. 12, 1870; at which time he sold it to Francis Leavitt. The date, incidentally, coinciding with the development of competiting stores in the new town of Morley.

What else was at Maxville in the two decades before Morley was founded?

The south end of Ashley's property was bordered by the old Bloomfield road, and hence my interest in the mention in the March 30th, 1867 issue of the Commerce "Dispatch" of "McKnight's cotton gin and wool carding machine on the Bloomfield road twelve miles southwest of Commerce." The distance from Commerce to the present intersection of Highway 61 and the old Bloomfield road, now Highway 91, is precisely twelve miles.

The actual site of Ashley's "stand" may have been located some years ago by Jim Burton when he was doing some bulldozing work on the Ashley tract about 100 yards east of Highway 61. On that occasion his bulldozer unearthed artifacts indicating an early establishment of some sort on the site. Also on the ridge running NNE. from this site, a surface hunt last April 24th, by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Con McArthur and myself, of the Scott County Historical Society, and Miss Margaret Mates, of SEMO University, revealed a wide variety of artifacts--potsherds, fragments of glass bottles, a half nail, a Turk's head stoneware pipe, lightly glazed fireplace brickbats, etc. etc., most of which indicated that the site had been occupied before the Civil War. The plentitude of wine bottle fragments found in one area suggested that a tavern might once have been located there. And, at another location, iron artifacts, horseshoe nails, etc., made us speculate that this might have been the site of a blacksmith shop.

Subsequent searches at this site by Miss Sarah Gibbs, treasurer of the Scott County Historical Society, and a resident of Morley, added to our collection of potsherds, and turned up several pieces of the type made by the antebellum New York settlement potters. Also pieces of a thicker and cruder type of stoneware possibly of even earlier date.

MORLEY

The town of Morley was laid out in September of 1868 by the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Rail Road Co., and a truly beautiful plat map was drawn and placed on file in the County Recorder's Office at Benton, where it can yet be found in Plat Book No. 1. It was embellished with beautiful lettering, a floral decoration, ornate scroll work and a picture of a train of the appropriate vintage; all of which makes the Morley plat the most attractive example of the cartographer's art now in the county's collection.

Morley, as surveyed by the railroad, contained 40 complete blocks and 12 fractional blocks. The complete blocks each contained 12 lots, the total therein being 480 lots. Fractional block lots numbered 78, and the total for the town was 558.

The town was named in honor of James H. Morley, Chief Engineer, for the planning and building of the Pilot Knob-Belmont line. Streets, except for four that were given women's first names, and one named in honor of Gen. Watkins, were all named for men connected in one way or another with the railroad.

Allen Street for Thomas Allen, President of the railroad; Kennett St. for Luther M. Kennett, first president of the railroad; Whitman St. for John M. Whitman, the railroad's construction engineer; Marquand St.

for W.G. Marquand, major stockholder; Kirkwood St. for John R. Kirkwood, railroad consulting engineer; Flad St. for Henry Flad, resident engineer for the Iron Mt. road; Bronaugh St. for E.C. Bronaugh, railroad attorney, [illegible] Gallagher St. for Thomas M. Gallagher, a St. Louis manufacturer of iron and steel supplies for the railroad, and Harding St. for James Harding, pioneer St. Louis railroad civil engineer.

But one wonders who Caroline, Cora, Llewella and Virgina streets were named for; perhaps the wives of some of the above.

As to the streets themselves, they were all 60 feet wide, except for Virginia and Kirkwood avenues, which were 80 feet in width and intersected at "Court Square," which apparently had been included in the plat with the hope that when the countyseat was removed from Commerce, Morley, with its ready-made courthouse square, would be ready and willing to accept the new courthouse the county would have to build.

Although the town was laid out in 1868, the railroad was not fully completed until Aug. 15, 1869. Work between Charleston and Allenville, however, had been put under contract on Aug. 5, 1867; and we know from the Commerce "Dispatch" that rail service was in effect from Belmont to Morley and beyond in April of 1869.

As of April 2nd, 1869, Morley, according to the editor of the "Dispatch," had a population of 78. Twenty houses had been constructed and more were being built. A side track and train turning Y were in the process of being built, and a depot was under construction. A gravel road from Morley to Bloomfield was being talked of, and it was hoped that this would funnel a great deal of trade and traffic from the southwestern counties and Arkansas into the new town and railroad center.

On Oct. 6, 1868 A.C. Ketchum and 16 other Morley residents petitioned the county court for authority to incorporate the town. The court approved their petition and appointed A.C. Ketchum, W.J. Welsh, John Riggs, Alexander Courtway and James D. White as trustees. For some reason the actions of the trustees seem not to have met the approval of the townspeople, for on Mar. 23, 1870, Gen. Watkins, representing James D. White, persuaded the county court to rescind its order of incorporation, and then presented the court another petition of incorporation, signed by White and and 40 other residents of the town. This second petition was granted and James Boutwell, Henry Wadsworth, George R. Wilson, B.V. Yardell and L. O'Brien were appointed trustees.

John Riggs, who, as we have previously noted, was granted a license on June 16, 1868, in July, 1869, applied for and was granted a license to operate a dram shop in Morley. Was this simply the required annual renewal, or was it a new license for a shop in a different town? Possibly the former, since otherwise why did he permit Milton and Berry Ellis to get the jump on him at this new location; as they certainly would have done, as the result of receiving their Morley dram shop license on Jan. 4, 1869 ?

An ad in the April 2, 1869 issue of the Commerce "Dispatch" informs the public that C.W. Guinnip, the proprietor of the GAITHER HOUSE, Morley, Mo., is "prepared to accomodate the traveling public in a way that cannot fail giving entire satisfaction, and all those wishing accomodations will find the GAITHER HOUSE equal to their expectations. My table is supplied with everything the market affords, and my beds are clean and comfortable." The Gaither House, I should add, was on Kirkwood Street near the depot.

The ad for Harding House did not appear in the "Dispatch" until Aug. 14, 1869. It was headlined: "HARDING HOUSE, Morley, Mo., Alexander Courtway, Proprietor. This new and large Hotel is situated near the railroad depot on Kirkwood Street. Mr. Courtway treats his customers with politeness and attention. His table is furnished with the very best, and plenty of it. If you want a good meal and a good bed do not fail to give the Harding House a call."

Through traffic on the Iron Mountain's St. Louis to Belmont line started rolling the day after Mr. Courtway's ad appeared. This traffic featured two fast (30 miles per hour) passenger trains, the "Mail," and the "New Orleans & Mobile Express." Each made daily appearances in Morley, except for the "Mail," which did not run on Sunday.

Morley's postoffice opened Jan. 7, 1869, with Theodore F. Frays acting as postmaster. He was replaced on Feb. 2, 1870 by William B. Proctor. Proctor held the office until Feb. 6, 1871, when James O. Hatton assumed its duties, only to be replaced on Dec. 18, 1871 by Thomas O. Hatton, who held it until Oct. 2, 1872 , at which time Henry H. Daugherty was appointed. Daugherty was followed by Guy S. Curd, who received his appointment on Dec. 31, 1874, and held the office until April 26, 1880, when he was supplanted by Alonzo N. Inland.

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According to information in the 1875 edition of "Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri," Morley, at that time, had one public school, two churches, Baptist and Methodist Episcopal South; two hotels, one livery stable, one cotton gin, one mill, ten stores, several shops, and one newspaper, "The Advance," published by D.L. Hoffman."

L.A. Wilson's "Gazetteer and Directory of Southeastern Missouri and Southern Illinois," also published in 1875, identifies a few of the professional people and business in Morley at that juncture.

"D.H. Cheney, general merchandise store

G.S. Curd, drugstore and postoffice

E.B. Hill, city marshal & constable

D.L. Hoffman, editor, Morley "Transcript" (paper's 1st name)

L.C. Martin, general merchandise

John C. Watkins, Attorney at Law

George Wilson, proprietor of the Olive Hotel

Estimated population of the town, 350."

Morley's above mentioned Baptist Church had been organized in July of 1871 by the Rev. J. Reid. Their church house, however, was not erected until 1873.

Wilson's "estimate" of Morley's 1875 population must have been too high, for the census of 1880 gave it as only 325. The town continued to grow, though more and more slowly until, in 1910, it reached 494. In 1930 it had shrunk to 478, where it more or less became stable, and remained so until the decade of the 1960s, when its population went from 472 in 1960 to 528 in 1970.

The agricultural situation in 1880, at the time Morley was growing most rapidly, is described in the Scott County section of the 1880 or 13th Annual Report of the State Board of Agriculture

The hill section of the county, this report indicates was then "admirably adapted to the growth of wheat, which is successfully cultivated by frugal, industrious and well-to-do German farmers,

who settled here some thirty-five years ago. Wheat from this portion of the county, made into flour at the mills in Cape Girardeau, took the first prize at the Vienna World Exposition, and also at our own Centennial World's Fair.

The central and southern portion (of the county) are sandy loam, admirably adapted to farming, and yielding a larger return from the same amount of labor than any lands in the state. The oldest settlers here cannot recollect a failure of crops on this character of land. This is accounted for by the fact that the water of the Mississippi percolates through the entire extent of its sandy subsoil, and is constantly ascending to the surface; and if crops are properly cultivated, they never suffer from drouth.

The prices of land are very moderate; improved farms can be bought at from ten to twenty-five dollars per acre. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Co. have a large quantity of fine timber, agricultural and grazing lands in the wild state, which are sold at from two to five dollars per acre. The Scott County Immigration Society will be happy to furnish information to intending immigrants on any of the above points."

Needless to say, the author of this article did not foresee that in somewhat less than a century the beheading of the county's major rivers, the draining of its lakes, sloughs and swamps, and the pumping at hundreds of wells, would so lower the water table under these sandy loam soils that the crops thereon would become among those most susceptible to drouth damage of any in the county.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY, MORLEY, MO., 1881

J.M. Cooper, land agent, Iron Mountain Railroad

T.W. Carpenter, pastor, Methodist Episcopal Church, South

B.S. Curd, proprietor of The Little Store Around the Corner, gen'l. mdse.

H.H. & E. Daugherty, dealers in dry goods, groceries, drugs, paints, oils, hardware and farm implements. Agents, Southern Express Co.

Abner J. Gupton, physician & surgeon, office, Daugherty's Drug Store

M.V. Harris, proprietor Harris' Drug & General Mdse. Store. Dealer in grains and other farm products

L.C. Martin & Brother, general mdse. store and buyer of cotton & corn

F.M. Smith, proprietor of Smith's Feed & Livery Stables

E.C. Smith, saloon & billiard hall, Morley

W.W. Ward, dealer in real estate & county surveyor

OWNERSHIP & VALUE OF PROPERTY IN MORLEY, AS ASSESSED IN 1870

Owner	Lot	Block	Value	
Thomas Allen	1	1	$10	
Same	2	1	$10	
Same	3	1	$10	
Wm. A. Cade	4	1	$10	
Same	5	1	$10	
Same	6	1	$10	
Same	7	1	$10	
Same	8	1	$10	
Same	9	1	$10	
Thos. Allen	10	1	$10	
Same	11	1	$10	
Same	12	1	$10	
George W. Arnold	1	2	$10	
Same	2	2	$10	
Same	3	2	$10	
Henry J. Deal	4	2	$10	
Same	5	2	$10	
Same	6	2	$10	
Same	7	2	$10	
Same	8	2	$10	
Same	9	2	$10	
George W. Arnold	10	2	$10	
Same	11	2	$10	
Same	12	2	$10	
Henry J. Deal, all of Blk. 3, $240				
Benj. Gaither, all Block 4, $240				
Thos. Allen, all of Block 5, $240				
Mary Brown, et al	1	6	$20	
Mary Brown et al	2	6	$160	(building)
Margaret Mandeville--3---6-----			$30	
Same	4	6	$30	
Same	5	6	$650	(building)
Same	6	6	$30	
Same	7	6	$20	
Same	8	6	$20	
Same	9	6	$20	
Same	10	6	$20	
Same	11	6	$20	
Same	12	6	$20	
Henry C. Wilkes	1	7	$20	
Same	2	7	$20	
Henry McPherson	3	7	$20	
Same	4	7	$250	(building)
Same	5	7	$200	(building)
Same	6	7	$20	
Benj. Gaither	7	7	$20	
Same	8	7	$20	
Same	9	7	$20	
Henry Wilkes	10	7	$20	
Same	11	7	$20	
Same	12	7	$20	
Henry J. Deal	1	8	$620	(building)
Isaiah Miller	2	8	$20	
James N. Miller	3	8	$200	(building)
Silas W. White	4	8	$500	(building)
Wm. F. Lemar	5	8	$25	
Same	6	8	$150	(building)

MORLEY: Continued

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
Nancy Shelby	E½ 7	8	$100 (building)
Wm. A. Hughes	W½ 7	8	$15
R. Bay Wade	8	8	$25
Same	9	8	$400 (building)
Gaither & Anderson	10	8	$20
Same	11	8	$20
Same	12	8	$20
Thos. Allen	1	9	$20
Same	2	9	$20
Same	3	9	$20
Lucy Martin	4	9	$400 (building)
Same	5	9	$20
Same	6	9	$20
Hugh S. Hay	7	9	$400 (building)
J.W. Agnew	8	9	$20
Same	9	9	$450 (building)
Benj. Gaither	1	10	$20
Same	2	10	$20
Same	3	10	$20
Same	4	10	$25
Same	5	10	$25
Simeon R. Jones	6	10	$25
Wm. A. Martin	7	10	$25
Joseph Philipson	8	10	$25
Nathaniel Watkins	9	10	$25
Benj. Gaither	10	10	$20
Same	11	10	$20
Same	12	10	$20
Thomas Allen	1	11	$150 (bldg.)
Same	2	11	$20
Same	3	11	$20
Same	4	11	$25
Same	5	11	$25
Same	6	11	$25
Henry Wadsworth	7	11	$150 (bldg.)
Same	8	11	$150 (bldg.)
Same	9	11	$150 (bldg.)
Thos. Allen	10	11	$20
Same	11	11	$20
Same	12	11	$20
W.A., L.D. & S.D. Martin	1	12	$15
Same	2	12	$15
Same	3	12	$15
Same	4	12	$20
Same	5	12	$20
Same	6	12	$20
Owen C. Blogden	7	12	$20
Same	8	12	$20
Same	9	12	$20
James D. White	10	12	$15
Same	11	12	$15
Same	12	12	$15
Benj. Gaither, ALL of Blk. 13			
Thos. Allen, ALL Block 14			$220
Edmund O'Brien	1	15	$350 (bldg.)
Same	2	15	$300 (bldg.)
Same	3	15	$20

MORLEY: Continued

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
Alexander Courtway N prt	4	15	$15
Wm. Cade S part	4	15	$15
Alex'r Courtway N prt	5	15	$150 (building)
Wm. Cade S part	5	15	$20
Alex. Courtway N prt	6	15	$600 (bldg.)
Wm. H. Cady S. prt	6	15	$300 (bldg.)
Thos. D. Stanley	7	15	$450 (bldg.)
Benj. Gaither	8	15	$250 (bldg.)
Same	9	15	$450 (bldg.)
Henry Deal prt	10	15	$20
O.C. Brown prt	10	15	$200 (bldg.)
Henry Deal prt	11	15	$15
O.C. Brown prt	11	15	$15
Same	12	15	$25
Benj. Gaither N prt	1	16	$800 (bldg.)
Wm. B. Anderson S prt	1	16	$850 (bldg.)
Benj. Gaither	2	16	$40
Green & Hughes	3	16	$175 (bldg.)
Geo. W. Arnold	4	16	$40
Same	5	16	$40
Same	6	16	$40
Benj. Gaither	7	16	$75 (bldg.?)
Same	8	16	$35
Lucretia Boutwell	9	16	$275 (bldg.)
Theodore Frazier	10	16	$500 (bldg.)
Wm. & S.R. Cade N½	11	16	$500 (bldg.)
R. Bay Wade S½	11	16	$200 (bldg.)
James Boutwell ½	12	16	$30
F.M. & E.C. Smith ½	12	16	$225 (bldg.)

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
Thomas Allen	1	17	$40
Same	2	17	$40
Same	3	17	$40
Same	4	17	$40
Same	5	17	$40
Same	6	17	$40
Benj. Gaither	7	17	$30
Same	8	17	$30
Same	9	17	$30
Same	10	17	$30
Same	11	17	$30
Same	12	17	$30
John G. Kelly	1	18	$35
James N. Morley	2	18	$35
James M. Loughborough	3	18	$35
Henry J. Deal	4	18	$35
Same	5	18	$35
Same	6	18	$250 (building)
Same	7	18	$25
Same	8	18	$25
Same	9	18	$25
Same	10	18	$25
Same	11	18	$25
George F. Tower	12	18	$25
Henry J. Deal	1	19	$30
Same	2	19	$30
E.C. & F.M. Smith	3	19	$170 (building)
Same	4	19	$170 (building)
Michael Schaffer	5	19	$400 (building)
Same	6	19	$25

MORLEY: Continued

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
Henry J. Deal	7	19	$20
Same	8	19	$20
Same	9	19	$20
Same	10	19	$20
Same	11	19	$20
Same	12	19	$20
Benj. Gaither, ALL Block	20		$180
Same ALL of Block 21			$180
Catherine Curd	1	22	$1,000 (building)
Same	2	22	$25
Same	3	22	$25
Benj. Gaither	4	22	$250 (building)
Same	5	22	$20
Same	6	22	$20
Same	7	22	$20
Same	8	22	$20
Same	9	22	$20
Same	10	22	$20
Same	11	22	$20
Same	12	22	$20
Henry J. Deal	1	23	$500 (building)
Clayton Knox	2	23	$400 (building)
John W. Knox	3	23	$300 (building)
Henry J. Deal	4	23	$30
Same	5	23	$30
Same	6	23	$25
Same	7	23	$25
Same	8	23	$25
Same	9	23	$275 (building)
Daniel Haitkoph	1	24	$350 (bldg.)
Same	2	24	$25
Same	3	24	$25
Thos. Allen	4	24	$30
Same	5	24	$530 (building)
Same	6	24	$30
Wm. Lemar & O.C. Brown	7	24	$25
Same	8	24	$25
Same	9	24	$400 (bldg.)
Henry J. Deal	1	25	$20
Same	2	25	$20
Same	3	25	$20
Same	4	25	$20
Same	5	25	$20
Same	6	25	$20
Same	½ of 7	25	$10
Oliver C. Brown	½ of 7	25	$10
Henry J. Deal	½ of 8	25	$10
O.C. Brown	½ of 8	25	$10
Henry J. Deal	½ of 9	25	$10
Oliver C. Brown	½ of 9	25	$10
Sarah Boyce	10	25	$20
Same	11	25	$400 (building)
Same	12	25	$20
Benj. Gaither ALL 12 Lots of Blk 26--$240			
Thos. Allen ALL of Block 27 (3 lots) $45			
Thos. Allen, ALL of Block 28 (11 lots) $165			
Henry J. Deal, 11 lots, Block 29--$165			
Loretta A. Foster	8	29	$15

MORLEY: Continued

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
Thomas Allen, ALL 12 lots		30	$200
Same, Lots 1, 2, 3 of		Blk. 31	$60
Benj. Gaither, Lots 4,5,6,		31	$60
Thos. Allen, Lots 7,8,9 of		31	$60
Benj. Gaither, Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,		Blk. 32	$120
Edward McPherson	7	32	$100 (bldg.)
Same	8	32	$20
Same	9	32	$20
John M. Brennan, ALL of		33	$240
Benj. Gaither, ALL of		34	$180
Same, ALL lots in Block		35	$150
Henry J. Deal, ALL in		36	$150
Benj. Gaither, All in		37	$125
Henry J. Deal, ALL in		38	$200
Joseph Minch	1	39	$12
Same	2	39	$12
John Brennan, 3,4,5 in		39	$36
Henry J. Deal, 7 lots in 39, $12 each			
Benj. Gaither, ALL lots in 40--$165			
Henry J. Deal, ALL lots in 41--$180			
Thos. Allen, ALL lots Blk. 42--$120			
Henry J. Deal, ALL lots in 43--$80			
Benj. Gaither, All lots in 44--$120			
Henry J. Deal, ALL lots in 45--$120			
Same, ALL lots in Block 46-----$120			
Benj. Gaither, All in Blk. 47 $120			
Same, ALL lots in Block 48---- $95			
Wm. B. Proctor, ALL lots in 49--$185			

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
Revised Assessments on two in blocks 9 & 13.			
Elijah B. Hill	12	9	$200 (bldg.)
Benj. Gaither	4	13	$350 (building)

WHITE'S ADDITION TO MORLEY

All lots in this addition still vacant. Owners were Mathew A. Douthitt, John T. Rogers, Thomas S. Rhodes, George W. Arnold, R.R. McMullen, Hugh S. Hay, James D. White, Mary Brown "and others," and David Vaughn.

NOTES:

From the above we can determine that there were some 51 or more buildings in Morley in 1870, and by referring to the historical material, it is possible to determine the nature of structures on some of these lots. Courtway's hotel, for example, can pretty safely be assumed to have been located on the North part of Lot 6 in Block 15, which was assessed at $600.

The most valuable building assessed was that of Catherine Curd, on Lot 1, Block 22, which was valued at $1,000.

Col. Henry J. Deal, who owned 117 lots, built 50 miles of the Iron Mt. Rail Road and about an equal mileage of the Cairo & Fulton. And Thos. Allen, of course, was president and principal owner of the Iron Mountain Rail Road.

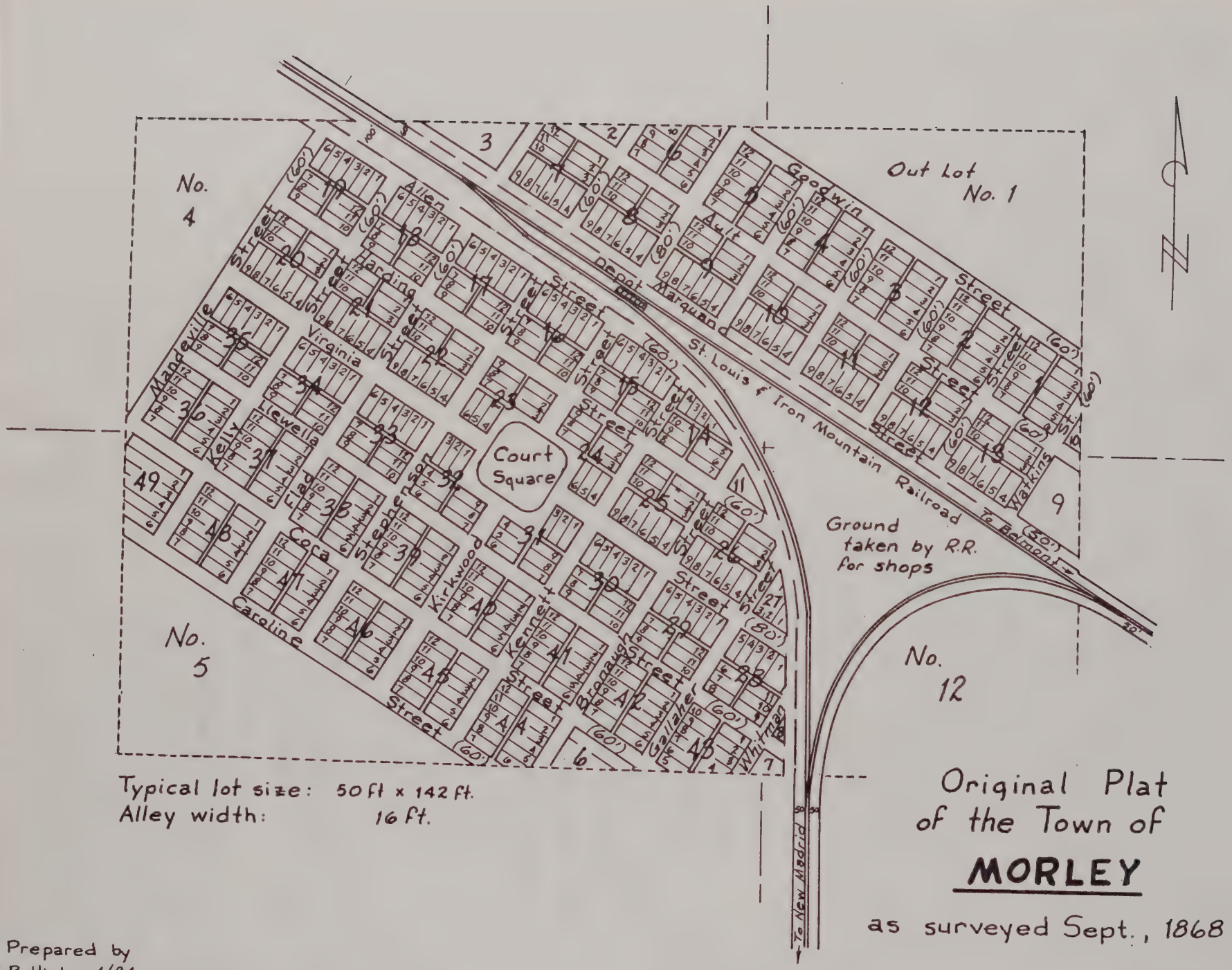
RURAL FOREST, FOREST MILLS & BLODGETT

Forest Mills, a sawmill village, was founded before the Civil War. Its site, as near as can be determined at the present time, was in the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 26, Township 27 N., Range 14 E., some three and one-fifth miles south of the present site of Blodgett. It had a steam sawmill, still there in 1883, a store and a postoffice. Perhaps there were other businesses, but, if so, I have found no record of them. Isaac E. Anderson was the village's only postmaster, receiving his appointment on Aug. 29, 1860, and holding it until June 27, 1864, when it, along with most of the other postoffices in the county, was discontinued because of guerilla activities, which became extremely frequent and violent during this final year of the war.

Less is known about Rural Forest, but it appears to have been located one and one-fourth miles west of the present town of Blodgett, at a point where the old road from Morley intersected a road from the north. This was approximately on the line between Sections 4 and 9, Township 27 N., Range 14 E.

Rural Forest had a sawmill, store and postoffice, and, perhaps other small businesses. Its postmaster and storekeeper was George W. Austin. He was appointed postmaster on Aug. 14, 1867, and continued to serve until May 9, 1871; at which time the postoffice was moved to Blodgett.

The site selected for Blodgett was between two bodies of water. One-half mile to the east was a great north-south swamp that began


No. 4
No. 5
No. 12
Out Lot No. 1
Depot Marquand
St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad
To Belmont
To New Madrid
Court Square
Ground taken by R.R. for shops
Typical lot size: 50 ft x 142 ft.
Alley width: 16 ft.
Original Plat of the Town of
MORLEY
as surveyed Sept., 1868
Prepared by
J. B. Hirtz 1/84

RURAL FOREST, FOREST MILLS & BLODGETT

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The site selected for Blodgett was between two bodies of water. One-half mile to the east was a great north-south swamp that began

four miles north of Blodgett and extended southward into New Madrid County. On the west, the River Styx flowed within a half mile or less of the town. It did not flow seven times around the world, as was reputedly the case with the River Styx of ancient Greek mythology. In fact it began in Section 7 and flowed through sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 22, 21, 28, and into Section 33, where it emptied into Lake St. John--all of the sections mentioned being in Township 27 N., Range 14 E.

Diligent search in the records of the county court has provided no evidence that a "grim, unshaven old boatman named Charon" ever operated a ferry at any place on our River Styx.

I have never read any explanation of why the town of Blodgett was given that name, but since the proprietors of the Iron Mountain railroad had exhibited such a marked predilection for naming towns along their road in honor of their own people, I suspect Blodgett was named for Henry W. Blodgett, who, from 1853 on, was a prominent railroad attorney and handled important cases for some of the railroads headquartered in St. Louis. At any rate, we know that was the case with Morley, Glenallen, Allenville and Marquand; and in the case of the latter town, W.G. Marquand signified his appreciation for having the town named after him by contributing $1,000 for erecting a church house in it. Henry W. Blodgett, I might add, was also an official of several railroad companies, and in later life,a federal judge.

The plat of the town of Blodgett was filed in the county recorder's office on Oct. 21st, 1870. As originally laid out, it consisted of eight blocks northeast of the railroad, and eight blocks southeast of it. Each block contained 12 lots, and the streets between were each 50 feet wide. There were only four east-west streets. These,

from northeast to southwest, were, Kew, Rail Road, Front, and McCullen. North-south streets, beginning on the west, were, Paunce Avenue, Hawkins Street, and Linton Street.

As to the town's founder; Nathan Linton, "of Cairo, Ill.," says quite specifically, in his caption on the original town plat, that the town of Blodgett was "laid off by me."

Early Blodgett businessmen included W.B. Congleton, Charles L. Stubbs, W.R. Sherer and B.F. Marshall. Early stores were owned by Marshall & Stubbs and W.R. Sherer. S. Peal & Co., owned by Stephen and John D. Peal, established a general merchandise store in Blodgett in 1875. A.J. Pigg also opened a store there in 1884. Then, in 1885, James F. Evins replaced Stubbs as partner in the Marshall & Stubbs general merchandise store.

The area's first doctor was J.S. Sparks, who settled in the vicinity of Forest Mills in 1857, but during the war fled to Santa Fe (Fayville), Ill., for safety, as did so many other prominent citizens of Scott and Stoddard counties. In 1882 or 1883 he moved into the town of Blodgett and practiced there.

The truth seems to be that the county was almost completely without doctors during a part of the Civil War. Dr. John R. Porterfield, who established a practice at Commerce, moved to Thebes, Ill., for a time, and of the 13 doctors listed in Goodspeed's History of SE. Mo., as practicing in Scott County in 1888, seven did not begin practicing until after the war, and the remainder, except for Dr. John L. Shumate, were surgeons or doctors in one or the other of the contending armies. Even in the case of Dr. Shumate, the matter

is in doubt, because he did not state specifically whether he did or did not continue to practice at Sikeston throughout the war.

C.M. Calban was Blodgett's first postmaster, and received his appointment on May 9, 1871. He served until July 14, 1874, at which time he was replaced by Charles Moon. ~~Then in rapid succession~~ He was followed on July 20, 1874 by William B. Congleton, who was supplanted on Oct. 1, 1874 by Joseph Austin. Austin held the postoffice until April 19, 1878, when Charles C. Halsted assumed the office. J. Figgs seems to have held the office for a short time in 1880, until Wm. B. Congleton replaced him Sept. 3, 1880, and remained postmaster until April 18, 1890, when Charles C. Halstead was again appointed to the office.

The above information came from the records of the U.S. Postoffice Department, but leaves out James F. Evins, who, in his biography in Goodspeed's History, is described as being postmaster at Blodgett in 1888. Maybe the Postoffice Department's hazy entry on "J. Figgs" should have been J. Evins. Anyway, it is discrepancies like these that drive the would-be historian up the wall.

Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri tells us that by 1875 Blodgett had two stores, a cotton gin, grist mill and sawmill, and that large quantities of timber, lumber and corn were being shipped out on the railroad, at Blodgett, at that time.

However, watermelon growing, which was to give Blodgett its big boost, was only being experimented with in the last half of the 1870s. But by 1888, according to Goodspeed's History, the town had become the county's leading shipping point for watermelons, a position she still continued to hold in 1900, when Scott County had become the leading watermelon producing county in the nation. Dunklin County

ranked second nationally.

Walter Williams, in his 1904 book, "State of Missouri," stated that Southeast Missouri production of watermelons was then running at the rate of about 10 million melons per year. And that, "allowing 40 feet per railroad car, this production would make a solid melon train fifty-five miles long."

Census figures show that in 1880, before the great melon boom got underway, Blodgett's population totaled only 43. But in 1900, as melon capital of the world, it had 209 people residing within its limits.

~~347~~

TAX RECORDS OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP IN BLODGETT

SHORTLY AFTER THE TOWN WAS FOUNDED IN 1870

All lots in Block 1 owned by James A. Stobaugh

Six lots in Block 2 owned by John C. McCallen

Four lots in Block 2 owned by Thomas C. Adams

Two lots on Block 2 owned by Nathan Linten, the town's founder.

Four lots in Block 3, Emeline E. McCallen

Lots 5 & 6, Block 3, by Byrd & Moore. Lot 6, $200

Lots 7 & 8, Block 3, by Mary Little. Lot 7, $175

Lot 9, Block 3, by Thomas J. Mason

Lots 10, 11 & 12, Block 3, by Byrd & Moore. Lot 12, $300

Lots 1, 2, 3, in Block 4, by James W. Congleton

Lots 4, 5, & 6, Block 4, by J.B. Daniels. Lot 6, $225

Lots 7 & 8, Block 4, by Nathan Linten

Lot 9, Block 4, by James W. Congleton

Lots 10, 11 & 12, Block 4, by Nathan Linten

Lots 1 & 2, Block 5, by L.W. & A.H. Danforth, Charleston, Mo., businessmen, ancestors of Senator Danforth

Lots 3 & 4, Block 5, by Nathan Linten

Lots 5 & 6, Block 5, by John C. McCallen. Lot 5, $200

Lots 7 & 8, Block 5, by Nathan Linten

Lots 9 & 10, Block 5, by Thomas Allen, president of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Rail Road.

Lots 11 & 12, Block 5, by L.W. & A.H. Danforth

Lots 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12, Block 6, by Nathan Linten. Lot 7, $100.

Lots 4, 5, & 6, Block 6, by John C. McCallen

All lots in Block 7 owned by James D. White

All lots in Blocks 8, 9, 10 & 11 owned by Thomas Allen

Lots 1 to 6, Block 12, owned by Nathan Linten. Lot 3, $200.

Lots 7 to 12, Block 12, by Thomas Allen

Assessed Values

The values of vacant lots ranged from $5 to $7. These are not listed; only those where the values are high enough to indicate that a building had been erected on them are listed in this table.

Assessed Values

Lots 1 to 3, Block 13, by James D. White

Lots 4 to 6, Block 13, by James A. Stobaugh. Lot 6, $200

Lots 7 to 9, Block 13, by James D. White

Lots 10 to 12, Block 13, James H. Congleton

All of Block 14 owned by Thomas Allen

All of Block 15 owned by Thomas Allen

Lots 1 to 4, Block 16, by Thomas Allen

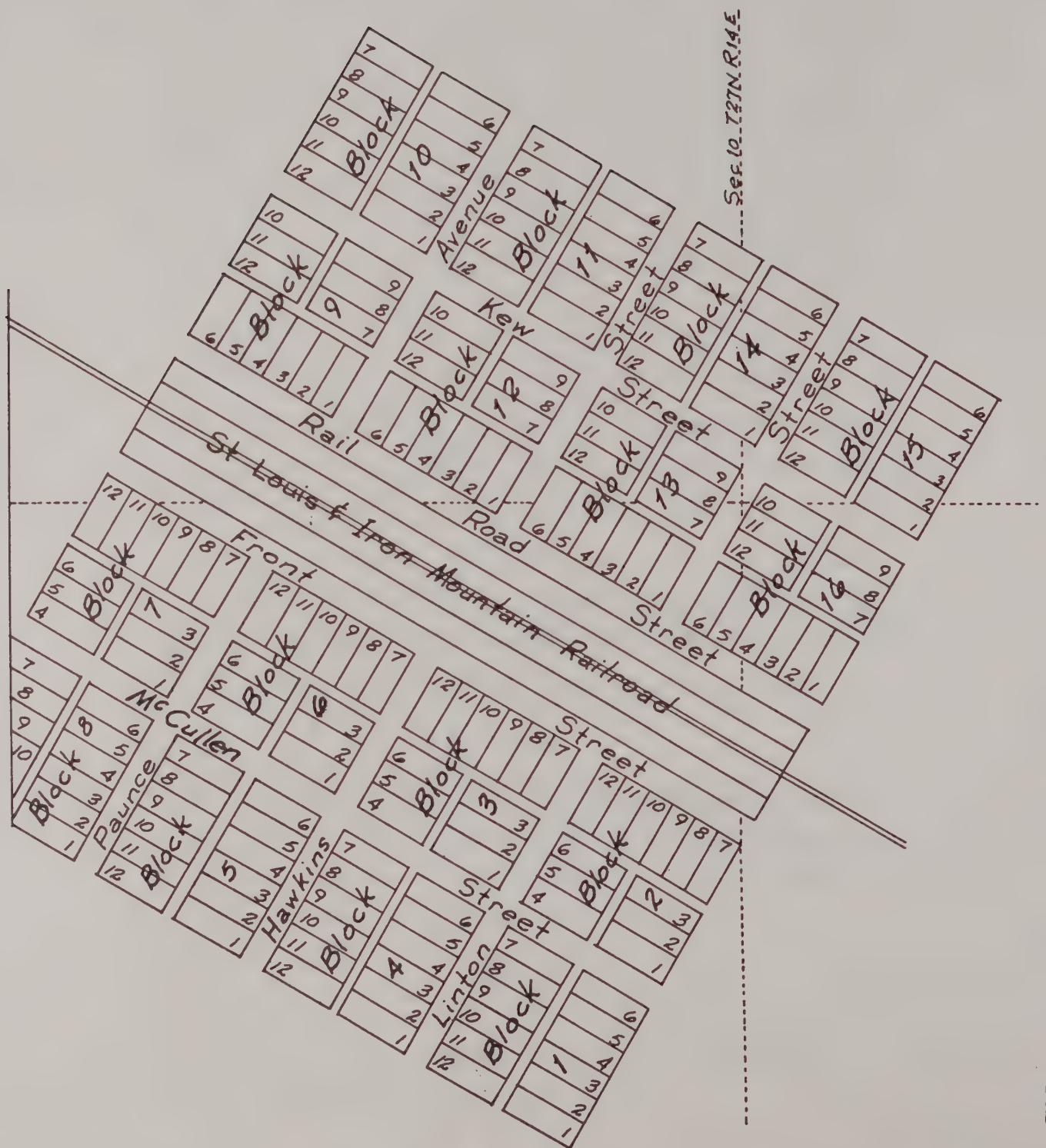
Lots 5 & 6, Block 16, by Nathan Linten

Lots 7 to 12, Block 16, by Thomas Allen

The most surprising fact brought out by the above list is the ownership by Thomas Allen, president of the Iron Mountain Railroad, of 89 of the towns original 190 lots. This shows that the railroad's influence on site selection and the naming of the town and its streets, was far greater than earlier historians had thought.

Only eight buildings had been erected in the town at the time this assessment was made late in the year 1870. Values ranged from $100 to $300, indicating that they were of low-cost frame construction.

The county assessor spelled Nathan Linton's name "Linten," but Linton himself spelled it "Linton."

1870 Plat of the Town of Blodgett

Prepared by
J. B. Hirtz - 12/83

SYLVANIA, ST. CLOUD & ORAN

Sylvania was laid off by Osborne M. Radcliffe and his wife, Catherine; Joseph Dines and his wife, Mary; Matthew Rose, Jacob Shelby and Absalom McElmurry. James H. Kew surveyed the 400-lot townsite on July 9, 1869. The following entry in the records of the county court, dated Oct. 6, 1868, suggests some measure of development there even before the townsite was surveyed:

"Road commissioners ordered to view and survey road from New Hamburg to Sylvania, to connect with the Bloomfield and Benton road at or near Allen's Camp--in accordance with petition signed by George Scholz and fifty other people."

We know from the previously quoted Commerce "Dispatch" article of Aug. 15, 1869, that lots in Sylvania were sold at $50 each, and that the town was being built "mainly by former citizens of Charleston, Mo."

Among these 1869 buildings already constructed were A.B. McElmurry's dwelling house and dry goods store, and probably a dram shop, since, during the July, 1869 term, the County Court had issued a dram shop license to F.M. McDermott for a dram shop at Sylvania, and later in that year R.D. Hayden was granted a similar license.

Under construction on Aug. 15, 1869 were Shelby & Smith's "large steam sawmill," William Brock's steam sawmill and grist mill, and a dwelling house and drug store for Dr. Joseph Dines. Dines was one of three doctors already located at Sylvania, the other two being Dr. Radcliffe and Dr. Porterfield.

Dr. Radcliffe was also in the brick making business at Sylvania, having just completed a new kiln there. Some fifteen dwellings had already been completed, and construction was about to start on new homes for the J.L. Shelby and William Hudson families.

On Nov. 9, 1870 the County Court licensed Friend & Hursh to aid their two predecessors in the dram shop business, in their efforts to stamp out thirst in the new town; which, judging by the number of these establishments, was something not too easy to accomplish.

The plat of the town of Sylvania shows that the townsite was surveyed in five different sections, designated on the map by different colors. These were owned by different individuals, namely, Catherine M. Radcliffe, Osborne M. Radcliffe, Jacob S. Shelby & A.M. McElmurry, Mary J. Dines, and William Rose. Streets in the new town were Shelby, Radcliffe, Poplar, Mulberry, Rose, North, South, West, and High.

Because of a short-lived town in Dade County, Mo., named Sylvania, our Sylvania never had a post office. It came into existence on Feb. 14, 1870 under the name of St. Cloud. H.F. Lacy was St. Cloud's first postmaster, but served only a few months, being replaced on Nov. 10, 1870 by William S. Bassett, who, in turn, was replaced on Sept. 9, 1873 by Thomas J. Hughes. Hughes was followed on Mar. 18, 1874 by O.M. Radcliffe, who was displaced on June 1, 1874 by Jasper McCord; and he, on Sept. 2, 1874 by William S. Bassett. Samuel M. Collins replaced Bassett on April 27, 1876, and Collins, on Oct. 23, 1878, made way for Virgil R. Porterfield; and he, the following year (Sept. 11, 1879), was succeeded by John W. Clemson. On Dec. 2, 1879 Clemson was replaced by Leonidy G. Lyon, who held it until John W. Clemson resumed the office on Aug. 8, 1881.

On Aug. 23, 1882, a new plat of the town was filed and the name of it changed to Oran. The name of the postoffice was officially changed to Oran on Aug. 29, 1882, and John W. Clemson, still holding the office, thus became Oran's first postmaster, and held the office until Aug. 29, 1887, establishing a longevity record at a postoffice that had had an amazing turnover of postmasters during the first eleven years of its existence.

Campbell's Gazetteer (1875) lists Oran under the name of St. Cloud, and indicates that, at that time, the town had two stores, "a fine public school" and a steam stave-cutting and ochre-grinding mill. However, Higgins' 1883 map of Scott County shows this ochre mill as then being located a mile and a quarter southeast of Oran and just northeast of the Iron Mountain railroad tracks, on property now owned by Judge Louie Hirschowitz ($SE\frac{1}{4}$ of the $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 28 N., Range 13 E.).

James L. Hale came to St. Cloud in 1879, and, in partnership with a man named Wright, established a general merchandise store. Hale, a former school teacher, was a licensed pharmacist and operated a drugstore in conjunction with his general merchandise business. He later became prominent in county affairs, and for many years served as a member of the county court. He remained at Oran until about 1900, at which time he moved to Commerce, and, in partnership with Joseph H. Moore, built a large brick building and opened a general merchandise store.

Oran's population grew rapidly from 1880 to 1910, the census figures for that period being: 1880, 150; 1890, 271; 1900, 497, and 1910, 1,077.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY, ORAN, MO., 1881

(H.H.) Hancock & Trimble, general merchandise & buyers of country produce

Hale & Wright, dealers in drugs and general merchandise

Dr. W.E. Harris, physician & surgeon, office in Hale & Wright's store

Wm. C. Bowman, justice of the peace

Wm. S. Bennett, proprietor Oran Hogshead & Barrel Stave Factory & manufacturer of American Ochre Paints

J.W. Clemson, postmaster, depot agent & express agent Oran, Mo.

John Friend, railroad section foreman, Oran

C.E. Randolph, school teacher & gardener

J.W. Trimble, of Hancock & Trimble, dealer in fine cigars & liquor

George Wetteroth, proprietor of Oran flour and saw mills

Jacob Walter, proprietor of Walter's Steam Sawmill near Oran

Alexander Wright, partner in the firm of Hale & Wright, merchants

James L. Hale, of Hale & Wright, Notary Public, Oran

EXCERPTS FROM GOODSPEED'S BIOGRAPHY OF CAPT. WARD L. SMITH

Capt. Ward L. Smith was born in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1826. When 12 years of age Ward L. ran away from home and went to sea. He spent his 13th birthday on the bark "Tuscaloosa," a whaling vessel just off the coast of Cape Horn. Soon after the crew was cast away at the peninsula of St. Joseph, Patagonia, where they were captured by the Patagonian Indians and held 19 months, when they were rescued by the Spanish and taken to Rio Negro. There the Captain got a boat and took the crew to Rio Janeiro, where they were sent by the consul to their respective homes. Mr. Smith landed at Mobile, and went to sea again, first as a sailor, then as boatswain, second mate, chief mate, and in 1848 he

became captain, after which he helped to build two vessels in Mobile, Ala., and as captain of the last one built, the "Sarah E. Meagler," crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the latter part of 1854 to Chesburgh, France. During the Crimean War, Capt. Smith took service as a transport in the French Government Service, and was sent to Algiers, Africa, and from there to Constantinople and the Black Sea; was in the French service from late in 1854 to 1856, the most of the time in the Black Sea. After his discharge from the French Government, he went up the river Danube and his was the first American vessel that ever entered that river. Capt. Smith chartered his ship to load wheat at Galatz for Marseilles, France, to which place he took his cargo, and owing to some difficulty with the French Government, his vessel was seized and he was kept at Marseilles until 1858, when he returned to Mobile and went to sea again until 1861. Being ordered to leave the Confederacy he did so and came up the river to Memphis, Tenn., where he was put in prison. On being released he went to Cairo, Ill., where he worked for the government as a master mechanic. In 1868 he removed his family to a farm in Mississippi County, Mo., but the next year came to Scott County and located at Sylvania, now Oran. The next year he purchased a sawmill at Caney Creek, which he has since operated successfully. He owns about 1,000 acres of land, 200 of which are cleared, the rest being covered with fine timber."

The above, of course, was published in 1888. What follows is from an article witten prior to 1940 by Helen Purcell, a former editor of the Illmo Jimplicute. The clipping of this came to us through the courtesy of Mrs. Sylvester Glastetter.

Miss Purcell's article indicates that Capt. Smith, who, as we have seen, spent some time in Algiers, suggested that old Sylvania, at that time known as St. Cloud, be named Oran after that famed city in Algiers,

and that the sawmill village of Caney or Caney Creek be renamed Bleda, or, Blida, from a small city of that name near the north coast of Algeria.

Captain Smith, according to Miss Purcell, subsequently moved to Fredericktown, Mo., and died there in 1907, at the age of 82.

Some of the buildings of Bleda are still standing, but the village as such has disappeared. The old school, at the present time, is being used for a hay barn and other farm storage purposes.

1870 ASSESSED VALUES & OWNERSHIP OF LOTS IN SYLVANIA

All lots in blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 18, owned by Catherine M. Radcliffe. Assessed values indicate that all of these lots were vacant in 1870. However, Lot 11, in Block 12, which she also owned was valued at $300, indicating that a building had been constructed on, as was the case, too, with her Lot No. 11, in Block 13, which was valued at $200. All of her vacant lots, on the other hand, were valued at only $5 to $8.

James M. Moran also had a building valued at $260 on Lot 15, in Block 12, and Wm. M. McPheeters had what must have been a substantial building on Lot 8, Block 19, for the assessed value of it was $600.

A building on Lot 3, Block 24, valued at $400, was owned by Osborne M. Radcliffe, while one on Lot 7, Block 7, owned by Francis Metz, was assessed at only $65, and that on Lot 2, owned by Daniel W. Turner, was worth even less, as a $60 value was placed on it.

Dr. Virgil R. Porterfied had a building on Lot 12, Block 24, that was assessed at $275.

Other lots whose values indicate buildings were:
"30 feet off the north part of Lot 5, Block 24, owned by Osborne Radcliffe, $75; south part of Lot 5, Block 24, owned by the firm of Shelby & McElmurry, $300; north side of Lot 6, Block 24, also owned by Shelby & McElmurry, $350, and Lot 8, Block 24, owned by Mary J. Dines, and assessed at $360.

Owners of vacant lots, other than those previously listed, were Mathew Rose, Wm. S. Bassett, Charles H. Kew and George W. Arnold.

The above indicates that, as of 1870, the town had at least twelve buildings in it, and that the most valuable was that on Lot 8, Block 19, which was owned by William M. McPheeters, and assessed at $600.

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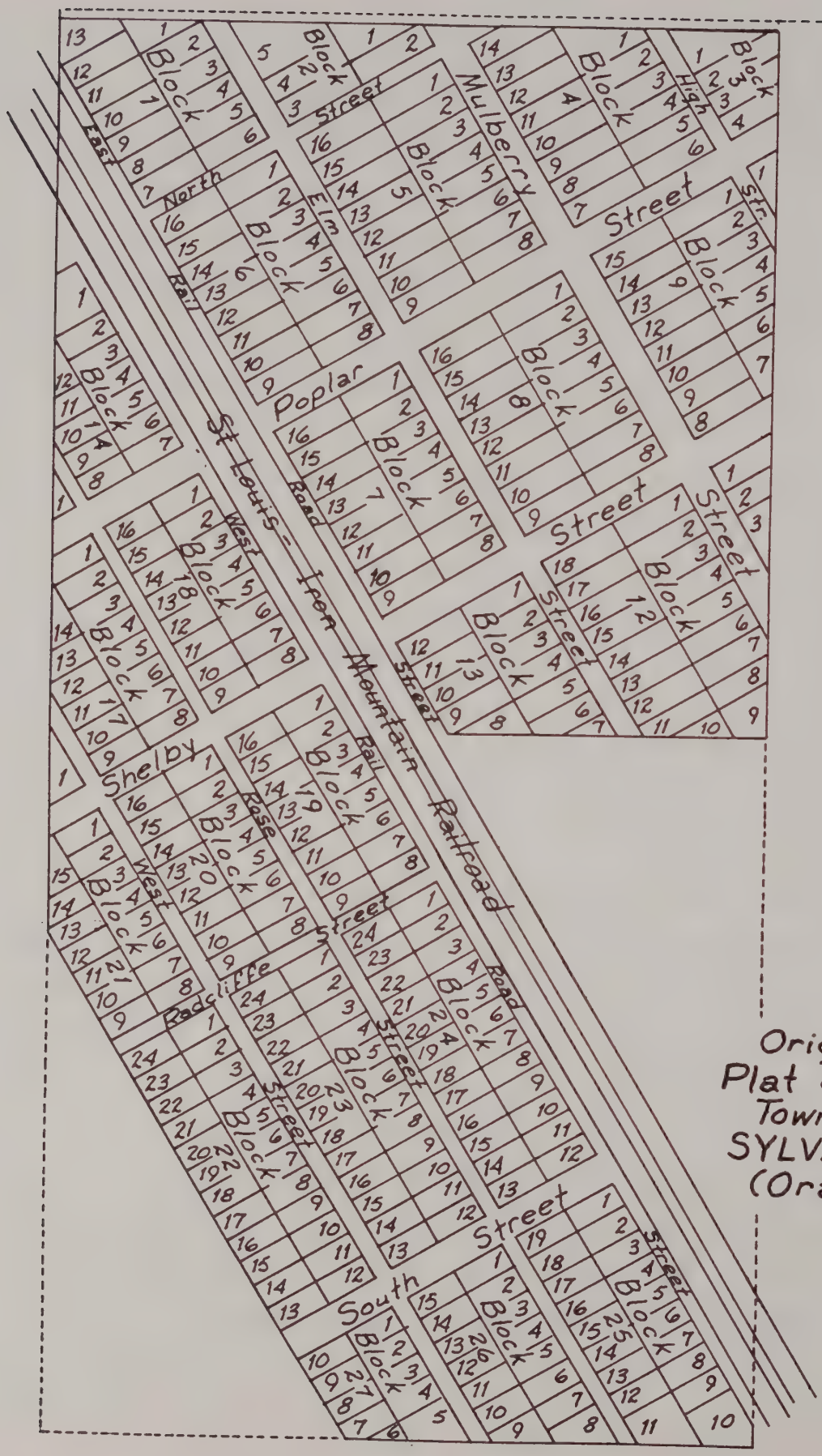

Original
Plat of the
Town of
SYLVANIA
(Oran)
Lots surveyed
July 6, 1869
Prepared by
J.B Hirts - 1/84
St Louis - Iron Mountain Railroad
Mulberry Street
Poplar Street
Shelby Street
Radcliffe Street
Rose Street
Elm Street
High Street
North Street
South Street
East Street
West Street
Block

DIEHLSTADT

Diehlstadt, like Sikeston, was founded by one man, and that man was John Kirkpatrick. His parents, Francis and Elizabeth (Proctor) Kirkpatrick, came to the Cypress area of Scott County about the year 1838, after having first settled in Wayne Co., Mo. Their home, prior to coming to Missouri, was near Gainesboro in north central Tennessee, and they came here, or at least to Cairo,by flatboat, after a long, tedious and hazardous voyage down the Cumberland and Ohio rivers, bringing with them their housekeeping equipment and livestock.

Francis, as we have noted, played an important role in the affairs of the pioneer Cypress community. By the time he died in 1874, he was the owner of large tracts of fertile Diehlstadt area land.

Son John was born Sept. 21, 1829, while the family was still at their Jackson County, Tenn., home. He and his brothers, Samuel and James A., eventually came to own large tracts of land around Diehlstadt. John's holdings alone totaled some 300 acres, all of which were under cultivation by 1880.

John Kirkpatrick acquired the future site of Diehlstadt in 1854, but it was not until 1870 that the example of five new and rapidly growing towns along the St. Louis & Iron Mountain railroad induced him to begin a like venture on his own property.

This he did, reputedly with some finacial assistance from his friend, Henry Diehl. And hence the name of his town, the "stadt" part of it being the German word for city or town.

The original plat of Diehlstadt, filed at Benton on June 15, 1870, was that of a 40-acre townsite of 19 blocks, 12 of which were fractional. These were subdivided into 155 lots, 68 of which were fractional.

The town's eight streets were 50 feet wide and most of them bore the names of local people. As, for example, Kirkpatrick, Swank, Martin, Hughes and Bridges streets.

James H. Bridges, for whom the street was named, was the town's first postmaster, receiving his appointment on Jan. 14, 1870, some five months before the town plat was filed, and indicating that some business activity was already underway at the site before the town was surveyed.

On May 11, 1876 John Kirkpatrick replaced Bridges as postmaster, and held the office until July 30, 1890, at which time he was replaced by Jordan Morris.

Kirkpatrick and Max Oster appear to have been the first merchants in the town. Charles Kew, at a later date, also had some interest in the town, as county records show that he purchased eleven lots from John Kirkpatrick on Aug. 10, 1880.

"Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri" (1875), indicates that the town then had one store, a church house (Baptist), school, a steam powered cotton gin, and a grist mill. Population was estimated at 100, but we mustbe wary of this, for almost invariably the Campbell estimates were too high, and this is borne out by the Wilson Directory estimate (1875), which was that the town then had only 85 residents. By 1900, when Diehlstadt had joined Morley and Blodgett as beneficiaries of the great watermelon boom, its population reached 156. At that time the town is said to have had a sawmill and five stores.

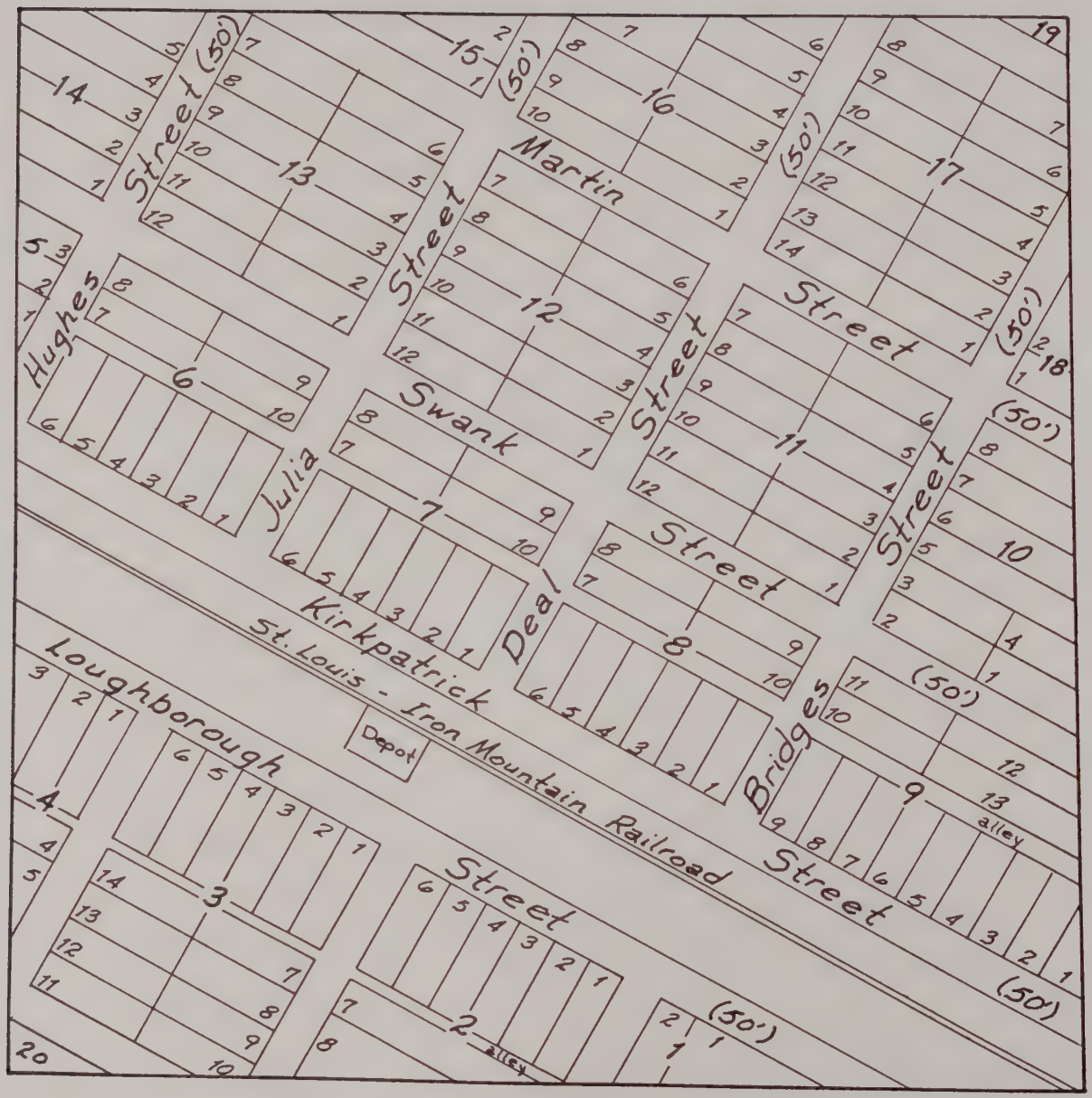
OWNERSHIP AND ASSESSED VALUES OF BUILDINGS IN

DIEHLSTADT IN 1875

Owner	Lot	Block	Value
James Absheer	2	1	$200
John Kirkpatrick	6	2	$500
James H. Bethune	8	2	$200
Henry J. Deal	2	3	$150
James H. Bethune	3	3	$850
James H. Bethune	7	3	$200
Rachel M. Bush	14	3	$250
Baptist Church	Lots 1, 2, 3, Blk. 17		

The above indicates that there were only eight buildings in Diehlstadt in 1875, the most valuable being the structure on Lot 3, Block 3, owned by James H. Bethune.

Original Plat of the Town of DEIHLSTADT

Filed June 11, 1870

Prepared by
J. B. Hirtz · 4·84

PARKER'S STATION & ADERTON CITY

Not many Scott Countians have ever heard of Aderton City. Which is understandable, since it went out of existence about 90 years ago and the site is now a plowed field.

In 1880, though, Aderton City was humming with activity. It was then the headquarters of Aderton Mills, which specialized in the manufacture of wagon and plow lumber. There were, of course, large saw and finishing mills connected with this operation, also a large drying house for the rapid "seasoning" of the lumber used in the manufacture of these products.

J.A.J. Aderton, the proprietor of this establishment, and of the town, also owned something over 5,000 acres of rich timber lands around Aderton City. Tram lines, one of which was more than four miles long, hauled in logs from as far away as Bird Island.

Aderton City, located on the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Rail Road four and one-half miles northwest of Oran ($N\frac{1}{2}$ of $SW\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 26, Twp. 29 N., Range 13 E.), was a busy shipping point with a depot and express office.

Its postoffice was opened as Parker's Station on June 7, 1877, with James V. Aderton as postmaster. Aderton was postmaster until replaced by Charles S. Delay on April 11, 1882. Delay, according to an 1882 Scott County Business Directory, was an extremely busy man, holding, in addition to the job of postmaster, that of superintendent of Aderton's sawmills. Nor was that all, for he also was serving as Aderton City's railway and express agent and as its resident justice of the peace, and in his spare time, as a member of the County Court, representing the citizens of the second district.

On Aug. 1, 1883 Aderton became the official name of the postoffice, but not for long, since, on Oct. 22, 1884, the Aderton City postoffice was discontinued and the area thereafter served from the Oran postoffice.

William Byrne was listed in an 1882 business directory as owning a sawmill and farm near Aderton City.

The 1880 census gave Aderton City's population as fifty, but since the mills there did not reach their peak output until about 1882, it is likely that it grew somewhat beyond the 1880 census total.

Mortgage and deeds of trust records show that by 1883 Joseph A.J. Aderton was deeply in debt. Then, a lengthy document dated Sept. 4, 1884, shows a deed of trust and mortgage, involving most of his land, 12 mules, 4 yoke of oxen, 25 cattle, 50 head of hogs, the stock of merchandise and the fixtures in his store, the household and kitchen furniture in his hotel, all of his lumber and logs, his personal property, all buildings, and his sawmill. Moreover, all of this was then in the process of being foreclosed by St. Louis investors who had financed Aderton's ventures. Hence, no doubt, the discontinuance of the Aderton City postoffice a month after this liquidation process was begun.

Some of Aderton's remaining timber lands were sold for debt on Dec. 21, 1885. The purchaser being described as a resident of Boone County, Mo.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

AND

INFORMATION

EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES BY CONTRACT AND WILL

Agreement entered into by the slaves of Andrew Hunt.

"We or either of us do promise to pay, or cause to be paid, to Andrew H. Wilson one thousand dollars, to be paid in sums of Two hundred dollars annually until all is paid, the first Two hundred dollars due on the 1st of January 1831, and the balance annually, all to be paid in five years from the date hereafter mentioned. Witness our hands and seals this the 13th January 1830.

Attest: A. Hunt

Becka X her mark
Winston X his mark
Gassoway X his mark
Dorothy X her mark
Adeline X her mark

WILL OF ANDREW HUNT, May 10, 1837

"First my immortal Soul to God that gave it. Second my funeral Expenses to be paid. Thirdly in relation to the Servants I have about as follows: Becka, Winston, Gassoway, Dorothy, Adeline & Charles, (Dorothy's son) they having fully paid me for their freedom, and are to be free at my Death, which can be fully shown by reference being had to papers now in my possession, say by a joint obligation for the payment of a certain sum of money payable by instalments by said servants to Andrew H. Wilson, also by said Wilson's obligation to free them on the payment of the last payment, which payment has been duly made, and by me received, that is to say One Thousand Dollars.

Fourthly, and lastly, I do constitute and appoint my nephew Andrew Hunt of St. Francis County and James L. Smith of Scott County, both of the State of Missouri, executors of this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal this tenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and

thirty seven.

WITNESS: Andrew Hunt (Seal)

George Pellet
John Hall
Daniel McFarland

In 1833 Andrew Hunt owned Lots numbers 81, 82, 83, 95 and other real estate in the town of Commerce.

BECKA, OR BECKY HUNT, AS A "FREE WOMAN OF COLOUR"

After writing the foregoing emancipation item, and while attempting to find a still extant 1870 house, of relatively low assessed value, that could be photographed and included in the history for purposes of comparison, I was informed by Mrs. Linus Huck, Mayor of Commerce, that she and her husband owned a rental property that she thought might fill the bill.

As it turned out, examination of the abstract for this property revealed that Becky Hunt, "a free woman of colour," had purchased this property (Lot 24, SE. corner Tywappity & Spring streets), in 1850 and 1851, in a double deed transaction, from William Castle for payments of $35 and $50.

Then, in 1871, Dorothy and Adeline Hunt, "daughters and heirs of Rebecca Hunt," sold this Commerce house and lot to Charles H. Kew for $100. Assessed value of the place in 1870, however, was only $80.

Mr. and Mrs. Huck, in renovating the interior of Becka's house, found it to have been a ceiled but unlined, frame structure, with a 2 by 4" frame covered on the outside by rough boards, and these in

turn covered with weather boarding.

The front, Mr. and Mrs. Huck believe, is as it was when Becka owned it. A carport, however, has been added to the back of the house.

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SCOTT COUNTY'S REGISTER OF MARRIAGES

Under the laws enacted at or near the time Missouri became a state, "the recorders of the several counties" were empowered to "register and record all returns of marriages, in a book to be kept for that purpose and no other; for which service the said recorders shall be allowed, respectively, for each and every entry aforesaid, the sum of fifty cents, to be paid by the persons married, to the person who shall perform the ceremony, and by him transmitted with the certificate to the recorder."

By this law we know that a county register of marriages was kept, beginning in 1822 or 1823. However, the first seventeen years of these records have been lost or destroyed, for "Marriage Record Book No. 1," now the oldest in our recorder's office,does not contain any entries earlier than for the year 1840.

Most, but not all,of the marriages recorded in "Record Book No. 1," were performed by justices of the peace. This, probably because, at that time, there were few resident ministers in the county. Most ministers, who served churches in the county in 1840, were yet of the itinerant variety, who came, preached a sermon or two, then went on to some other meeting place. Some of them, like that preacher in "Huckleberry Finn," were paid little or nothing, and may have been, as Mark Twain indicated in that case, worth it, too.

As to the nature of the marriage certificates recorded in Book 1, the following is included as an example:

"Be it remembered that this day personally appeared before me the undersigned, a justice of the peace within and for the County of Scott

and State of Missouri, Charles Mathews and Margaret McMullin, persons of lawful age, between and for whom I published the ceremony of marriage and pronunciation of man and wife according to law in such cases made and provided.

Given under my hand this 27th day of August 1840.

Abraham Hunter, Justice of the Peace

Recorded Sept. 10, 1840."

SCOTT COUNTY'S MARKS AND BRANDS BOOK

We usually think of marks and brands as something connected only with the old West, but we are apt to forget that our region was once the "Wild West," too; and not too long ago either.

Open range and stock laws with teeth in them were not enacted until early in 1919, so we too had to have our "Marks and Brands Book."

The one that has survived,and is now in our County Clerk's office, dates back to 1842. Entries continued to be made regularly up until July 18, 1918. Then, for 62 years no entries were made. But on Feb. 1, 1970 a minor resumption began, involving, up to the present time, a total of seven post-1970 marks or brands registrations.

What do these entries say? Well, let us look at that submitted by Edward B. Kelso on Aug. 5, 1843. It reads as follows:

"Edward B. Kelso this day records his Stock Mark as follows: to wit: a crop off the right ear and an upper bite in the left one. Brands his horses with the letter K."

Charles Norman had the following mark recorded July 25, 1845: "Charles Norman this day records his mark as follows: Hole in the left ear, and swallow fork in the right." Felix Allen, Clerk.

THE "SCOTT COUNTY STRAY BOOK"

Old Scott County newspapers used to contain a sprinkling of "Estray Notices," such as the following:

"Taken up by Wm. Jones and posted before J.A. Kirkpatrick, a Justice of the Peace in Tywappity Township, in Scott County, on the 30th day of December, 1891, the following described property: One black pony

mare about twelve years old with white spot in forehead, and one black horse colt about three months old, and one bay filly about two years old with white spot in forehead. Appraised at $35."

Then the Justice of the Peace had to report this transaction to the County Clerk, who then entered it in the "Scott County Stray Book." Two examples of these "Stray Book" entries follow:

"Taken up by William Waller of Moreland Township, Scott County, Mo. One Bright Sorrel horse both hind feet white, a small white spot in the forehead, 14½ hands high, supposed to be eight or nine years old. This spring appraised to $20 by Edward Ellis and Edward Ollar before me the undersigned justice of the peace this 29th day of April 1846. Signed: William Hamilten, J.P.

I do certify the above to be a true transcript from my Estray Book. Signed: Wm. Hamilten, J.P.

May 15, 1846 Then received & recorded the foregoing Stray Notice. Signed: Felix G. Allen, Clerk"

"Taken up and brought before William Sheppard a justice of the peace within and for the County of Scott in the State of Missouri by Thomas M. Shaw on the 6th day of May 1846 A Brown Mare ten or eleven years old, her left ear pulled down, a saddle near the wither on the right side, a white in the forehead, about fifteen hands high and Appraised to the Sum of twenty five dollars by Adeniram Seavers and Thomas G. Rhodes appraisors May 6, 1846.

Signed: Wm. Sheppard, J.P.

I do certify the above is a true copy as taken from my Stray Book.

Signed: Wm. Sheppard, J.P.

May 18th 1846 Then received & Recorded the foregoing Stray Notice.

Signed: Felix G. Allen, Clerk"

EARLY SCOTT COUNTY NATURALIZATION RECORDS

These were compiled by Leo J. Pfefferkorn, a former Circuit Clerk, at the request of the then District Director of Naturalization at Washington, D.C.

Name	Country of origin	Application for Citizenship
Francis Amrhein	Bavaria	1855
John Bihen	France	1846
John D. Bohnhardt	Switzerland	1848
John H. Boeckman	Prussia	1848
John Bore	Belgium	1857
Peter Bollinger	Bavaria	1852
John Bles	France	1853
George Blaes	France	1854
George Bechel	France	1854
Lorentz Bohart	France	1856
William Ballentine	Scotland	1856
Andreas Boos	Brunswick	1856
Casper Behan	Hanover	1857
Peter Bronkharst	Prussia	1870
Louis Brandt	Hungary	1871
Herman Boeckman	Prussia	1849
Theodore Bassler	Baden	1873
Stephen DeHeck	Holland	1857
Adam Dirnberger	Bavaria	1857
John Dirnberger	Bavaria	1857
Louis Dannenmueller	France	1852
Joseph Dohogne	Belgium	1854
John Dumay	Belgium	1857
Wolfgang Dirnberger	Bavaria	1858
Michael Dirnberger	Bavaria	1858
Frank Dunican	England	1870
Casper Eisele	Baden	1848
Andrew Eichorn	Bavaria	1856
John Job	Bier	1858
Henry Eifert	Germany	1860
John Frisch	Bavaria	1857
John Felthaus	Prussia	1852
William Fornfelt	Prussia	1853
Henry Fischer	Kurhassen	1874
Joseph Lagrance	Belgium	1857
Hubert J. Legrand	Belgium	1858
Joseph Lauber	France	1858
Michael Legrand	Prussia	1870
John Martin	France	1852
Valentine Miller	Hesse	1854
Louis Miller	Baden	1852
John Morper	Bavaria	1852
Michael Manes	Bavaria	1857
George Meinz	Bavaria	1857

Name	Country of origin	Application for citizenship
John Glaus	France	1851
Fridolin Glastetter	Baden	1852
Joseph Georger	France	1852
Stephen Glasser	Baden	1853
Joseph Glastetter	Baden	1853
George Gaengel	France	1854
John Glastetter	Baden	1854
John Giltz	Holland	1856
John Baptist Granthier	France	1857
Jacob Geisner	Bavaria	1857
Francis Granthier	France	1857
Joseph Gangle	France	1857
Charles Gangle	France	1857
John Glanke	Bavaria	1858
John Gangle	France	1858
John Getz	France	1860
Wm. J. Groves	England	1869
John G. Hartman	Germany	1842
Ludwig Halter	France	1852
Augustus Hilleman	Germany	1852
John Hahn	France	1852
Antony Heisserer	France	1853
Michael Heisserer	France	1853
Joseph Heisserer	France	1853
Lawrence Hafler	France	1855
Alois Hoffman	Baden	1858
Andrew Heisserer	France	1858
Philip Holder	France	1859

Name	Origin	Application for citizenship
Benjamin Harris	Prussia	1878
John Job	Bier	1858
John Kuhn	Bavaria	1843
Lucas Kern	Bavaria	1849
Adam Kern	Bavaria	1850
David Kabler	Bavaria	1850
Henry Kuter	France	1853
Peter Kast	Bavaria	1856
Anthony Kielhofner	France	1858
Francis Kamp	Belgium	1858
Jacob Koelzer	Prussia	1859
Lenhard Kaffenberger	Germany	1865
Charles Koch	Germany	1867
Peter Kuhn	Germany	1870
Bernard Kenkel	Prussia	1871
Francis Kuhn	Bavaria	1871
John Kempel	Germany	1874
George Leible	Bavaria	1851
Andrew Lauber	France	1851
Michael Linck	France	1851
John Lab	France	1857
Andrew Schane		1866
Frederick Upman	Prussia	1852
Charles Vetter	France	1843
Peter Vogt	Germany	1858
Nicholas Vetter	France	1843
Joseph B. Seigelman	Hungary	1873
Frederick Weiksuing	Germany	1842

Name	Country of origin	Application for citizenship
John Weaver	Bavaria	1857
Jacob Weismuller	Bavaria	1857
Martin Weismuller	Bavaria	1858
Jhob Worsley	England	1859
John Wehling	Germany	1876
Burnhard Zeingling	Baden	1852
George Zeigler	Bavaria	1857
John Zervis	Prussia	1858
Morand Compas	France	1860
Bernard Harris	Germany	1882
Frederick T. Herman	Germany	1855
Bernhard Jochim	Germany	1892
Ferdinand Myer	Germany	1844
Nicholas Steffs	Germany	1880
George Reinagel	France	1880
Annie Pattie	France	1881
Frederick Weber	Switzerland	1892
Frank Zundel	Germany	1891
Herman Grossman	Russia	1903
Harry Miller	Russia	1900
Julius Winer	Russia	1901
Rudolph Eifert	Germany	1905
Michael McLaughlin	Great Britain	1931

Name	Country of origin	Application for Citizenship
John Mier	Prussia	1859
Mathias Nillot	France	1857
Nicholas Nillot	France	1857
William Nethey	England	1858
Ianil Naumann	Prussia	1871
Balthasar Oartar	Germany	1848
Nicholas Ourth	Belgium	1852
Alvis Oberlin	Switzerland	1858
Anthony Uhlman	France	1860
Henry Oupman	(not given)	1871
George Oberlin	Switzerland	1858
John Ourth	Holland	1866
Louis Pfefferkorn	France	1851
Andrew Pfefferkorn	France	1853
Samuel Repart	Prussia	1848
Jacob Rubel	Bavaria	1852
Peter Rambo	Prussia	1857
Mathias Rambo	Bavaria	1858
Jacob Rupert	Belgium	1858
David Roth	Germany	1860
Martin Reiter	France	1871
Ehart Smith	Germany	1842
Joseph Stuppe	Bavaria	1843
Francis A. Suppy?,	Bavaria	1846
Valentine Scherer	Baden	1852
Louis Schott	France	1852
John Scherer	Baden	1855
Benedict Scherer	Baden	1855
Louis Staebler	France	1856
Henry Schneiman	Holland	unlisted
Michael Schoat	France	1856
Mark Seifert	Bavaria	1857
Andrew Schaefer	Bavaria	1857
George Staubenrauch	Bavaria	1857
Frederick Stamfus	Hanover	1857
John Schuber	Bavaria	1858
Charles Scheeter	France	1858
Joseph Treele	Baden	1843
Henry Thole	Prussia	1857

In 1860 the law required that an applicant for citizenship "be a free white person who had resided in the United States for five years, and one year at least in the state where he was applying. Minors under 18 when they came to this country were entitled to be admitted after they had reached the age of 21, if they had resided five years in this country, including the three years of their minority."

TWO UNUSUAL AND RELATED APPRENTICE CONTRACTS

SCOTT COUNTY WARRANTY DEED RECORD BOOK NUMBER 2, Pages 159 & 160.

"This Indenture made the 27th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine witnessed that Fanny Baker of Scott County in the State of Missouri, a free woman of color, hath put and placed and by these presents doth put and bind her son Andrew Jackson Baker by the consent of said child voluntarily given, also a free Negro child or mulatto, who on the tenth day of May next will be of the age of eight years, as an apprentice to Samuel Glore to learn the art, trade and mysteries of a blacksmith, the said Andrew Jackson Baker after the manner of an apprentice to dwell with and serve the said Samuel Glore from the day of the date hereof until the tenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty three, at which time the said apprentice, if he shall be living, will be twenty-one years of age. During all which time or term the said apprentice his said master will and faithfully shall serve, his secrets keep, and his lawful commands every where at all times readily obey. He shall do no damage to his said master nor willfully suffer any to be done by others, and if any to his knowledge be intended, he shall give his said master reasonable notice thereof. He shall not waste the goods of said master, nor lend them unlawfully to any. At cards, dice, or any other unlawful game he shall not play. Matrimony he shall not contract during the said term. Taverns or places of gambling he shall not frequent; he shall not get drunk, and from the services of his master he shall not absent himself, but in all things and at all times he shall behave himself as a good and faithful apprentice ought to do

during the whole time or term aforesaid, and the said Samuel Glore, on his part, doth hereby promise, covenant and agree to teach and instruct the said apprentice, or cause him to be taught and instructed, in the art, trade and calling of a blacksmith, by the best way or means he can, and shall well and faithfully find and provide for the said apprentice good and sufficient meat, drink, clothing, lodging and other necessaries fit and convenient for such an apprentice during the term aforesaid, and at the expiration thereof shall give unto the said apprentice two suits of wearing apparel and also the sum of ten dollars in lieu of education. In testimony whereof the said Fanny Baker and the said Samuel Glore have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals this the day and date aforesaid."

Signed: Fanny her X mark Baker

Samuel Glore

This apprentice contract differs in only one way from one that would been drawn up for a white boy, at that point in time.

The statutes, as of 1829, required that his master "cause such child to be taught to read and write; and the ground rules of arithmetic; and shall also give unto such child a new Bible." But this only if they were a white boy or girl.

"When the said apprentice is a Negro or mulatto child, it shall not be the duty of the master or mistress to cause such apprentice to be taught to read or write or a knowledge of arithmetic. But if such apprentice be a free negro or mulatto, he or she shall be allowed, at the expiration of his or her term of service, a sum of money in lieu of education, to be assessed by the probate court."

Hence, the ten dollars, "in lieu of education," in the above contract.

Evidently this apprentice contract with Samuel Glore was, in some way, abrogated. Perhaps Glore died or moved to another state. At any rate the following second contract also involved young Andrew Jackson Baker. This time, however, his contract was signed by his father, a white man then residing in Scott County.

These two apprentice contracts appear to be the only ones on record in Scott County that involved either a free Negro or mulatto child. There are numerous such agreements involving white boys, but only the two for Negro or mulatto children.

"This Indenture made and entered into this 16th day of July in the year Of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty two by and between Andrew Duman of the one part and James Ramsey, Jr., of the other part, both of the county of Scott and State of Missouri. Witnesseth that the said Andrew Duman, by these presents, doth bind as apprentice to the said James Ramsey, Jr., his Natural son by Fanny Baker, Andrew Jackson Duman, to serve faithfully the said James Ramsey, Jr., until the said Andrew Jackson shall arrive at the age of twenty one years. And the said James Ramsey, Jr., on his part, covenants and agrees with the said Andrew Duman on behalf of the said Andrew Jackson, that he will faithfully cause the said Andrew Jackson to be taught the art and business of a farmer. That he will furnish him with good and sufficient boarding, washing and lodging, that he will comfortably clothe and carefully nurse said boy during his apprenticeship, and in all things treat him with tenderness and humanity, and he further binds himself to give the said Andrew Jackson, upon his arriving at the age of twenty-one years a good suit of summer and a suit of winter clothes,

with a good horse to be worth Sevety five Dollars. And the said James Ramsey, Jr., further binds himself and his heirs that he will not remove, nor suffer to be removed, from this County said Andrew Jackson during his apprenticeship. In testimony whereof we, the said Andrew Duman and James Ramsey, Jr., have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year first above written.

Signed: Andrew his X mark Duman

James Ramsey

"I Strong N. Hutson do acknowledge myself security for the within named James Ramsey, Jr., in the within Indenture."

This is a much more binding agreement than the one entered into with Samuel Glore, also more advantageous to young Andrew Jackson Duman, in that he was to be given a valuable horse at the termination of his apprenticeship. One wonders, too, if the unusual insistence in this contract, that he be "treated with tenderness and humanity," could have been inserted because Glore had proved to be a cruel and inhumane master.

RECORD BOOK OF THE TWO SCHOOLS IN TOWNSHIP 30 N., RANGE 14 E.

FOR THE YEARS 1868 to 1874

This little book, now in the office of the Clerk of the County Court, appears to be the only book of this nature to have survived the years. And unfortunately it covers only two schools in the very northernmost tip of the county.

One was a private school, apparently that of the Eisleben Lutheran Church. The other, a public school, located on the east side of the present Froemsdorf road in the SE¼ of the SE¼ of Sec. 28, Twp. 30 N., Range 14 E, on property now owned by Hugo Sandvos, but which was deeded to the school district in 1869 by Captain Edmund Gray.

Mr. Gray's contributions to the county, in this case, and others, persuades me that some biographical material concerning him would not be out of place at this juncture.

He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 20, 1834. When a lad of fifteen he removed to St. Louis, in which city he continued to make his home up to 1854, when he removed to what is now known as Gray's Point. For many years he was a pilot on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and in 1867 built a steamboat of his own, "The Last Resort." This, he used to haul lime from a kiln he had established at the point, and to haul passengers and freight to various points up and down the river. He had extensive land holdings at the point, on which he conducted farming operations. He represented Scott County in the State Legislature in the term 1870 to 1872. In September, 1898, he surveyed and platted the original town of Graysboro; which, for a few years prospered, but since has completely disappeared.

RECORD OF TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN SUBDISTRICTS 1 & 2, OF DISTRICT 1

Subdistrict No. 2, a public school.

Ella Somers, holder of a 2nd grade certificate, taught in December, 1868, and was paid $30 for her services. Addie McNeely, 2nd grade certificate, taught from Jan. 25, 1869 to April 25, 1869, and for her three months' work received $100. Lizzie Gale, 2nd grade certificate, taught from Oct. 11, 1869 to March 11, 1870, five months, for which she was paid $200. She also taught from April 4, 1870, to May 4, 1870, a term of one month, for which she was paid $40.

Sarah Gale, 2nd grade certificate, taught from Oct. 8, 1870 to March 17, 1871, six months, and was paid $210, or $35 per month. William A. Wilburn, 2nd grade certificate, taught from Oct., 1871 to January, 1872, three months, and was paid $35 per month, for a total of $105. Miss Mary Harris, 2nd grade certificate, taught from Nov., 1872 to February, 1873, three months, and was paid $40 a month.

The directors in 1870 for Subdistrict 2 were Edmund Gray, John M. Daugherty and Daniel Bohnhardt. Pupils attending the school that year totaled 65, with thirteen of these listed as being Negros. And even in the 1868 term these Negro children were attending the District 2 school, which is surprising, since there are no Negros at all in this district at the present time. Probably these were the children of freed slaves, who, before long, left the region. At any rate, this must have been Scott County's first integrated school.

The school building, incidentally, is listed as being of log construction.

Only one teacher is listed for the private school in Subdistrict No. 1. His name was William Gisomer and he held a first grade certificate. Gisomer taught from Sept., 1873 to January, 1874, a term of

four months, for which he was paid $50 a month. The directors of this school are listed as Daniel Rubel, Henry Mientz and Thomas Lishman. The school building was described as being of frame construction. No Negros were listed as attending this school, which had 39 pupils in attendance that term.

NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKE CERTIFICATE LAND GRANTS IN SCOTT COUNTY

On Feb. 17, 1815 Congress belatedly approved an act authorizing persons owning earthquake damaged lands in New Madrid County to exchange their damaged acreage for a like acreage of government owned land elsewhere. Many settlers exchanged tracts of worthless swamp lands for these government land exchange certificates, and then sold the certificates to land speculators, while they themselves continued to reside in New Madrid County. The thing was so slackly handled that, in some cases, no acreage at all was listed as returned to the government.

Land speculators, especially those in St. Louis, gobbled up these certificates and exchanged them for valuable land around the growing towns of St. Louis and Chicago. Eventually the government issued about five times as many certificates as there were heads of families in the entire earthquake region.

However, only three earthquake land certificate grants were made in what is now Scott County. One of these, Survey 3260, was in the very southeasternmost corner of the county in Section 23, Township 27 N., Range 15 E. Another, Survey 2877, was one mile southeast of

Kelso, in Section 17, Township 29 N., Range 14 E. The third, Survey 2879, was located at the present site of Illmo, in Section 4, Township 29 N., Range 14 E., and was for the entire section of 640 acres.

A deed concerning this tract follows. The grant was made to Moses Vance of near New Madrid, who sold it to Joseph Charpenter, an attorney, trader, land speculator and, under the Spanish, royal interpreter, associated with Don Juan Lavallee, civil & military commandant at New Madrid. Juan Baptista Olive was a militia officer and citizen of some note at New Madrid.

WARRANTY DEED FOR THE SECTION FOUR EARTHQUAKE LAND GRANT

"I Victoire Brown, late Victoire Olive, widow and relict of John B. Olive, deceased, for and in consideration of the amicable adjustment of the estate of my late deceased Husband, and for the love and affection that I bear toward my children Heloize Mitchell (late Olive), Delia Waggoner (late Olive) and Josephine Clarissa Powell (late Olive), and also for and in Consideration of the sum of five dollars to me in hand paid by my three daughters, I have this day sold to the said Heloize, Delia and Josephine all the estate right and title which I have in and to a certain tract of land, being the original Settlement right of Moses Vance, purchased by Joseph Charpenter, and donated by him to Felix Olive, my son, a minor lately deceased, and which said tract of land was removed (from public ownership) under an act of Congress for the relief of the sufferers by Earthquakes in the County of New Madrid, and being the same tract of land on which John Mansfield

now lives, containing Six hundred and forty acres more or less. To have and hold said tract of land with all the improvements, appurtenances and privileges thereof to them the said Heloize, Delia & Josephine Clarissa, their heirs and assigns forever."

Signed: Anne Victoire Brown

SOME POST-CIVIL WAR PHYSICIANS IN SCOTT COUNTY

Commerce: Hugh T. Blackledge
John R. Coffman
Theodore F. Frazer
John D. Porterfield
Wm. Shelly Hutton

Blodgett: Wm. Hartwell Allen
R.A. Sparks
Joseph S. Sparks ?

Diehlstadt: J.F. Bagwell
Charles Albert Story

Morley: A.J. Gupton
C.D. Harris
T.E. Tomlinson

New Hamburg: L.F. Cruse

Benton: J.S. Freeling
Alexander Henderson
R. Bay Wade
Uriel Pierce Haw
Sidney J. Wade

Oran: Wm. E. Harris
Virgil Porterfield
O.M. Radcliffe
George R. Scholz
Wm. Henry Wescoat

Sikeston: O.E. Kendall
J.H. Kready
Ben R. Lennox
J.E. Folsome
Wm. L. Lennox

Sikeston: Continued
Pleasant M. Malcolm
Jacob Allen Milem
Warren Smith
B.F. Wyatt
John R. Shumate

Kelso: P.R. Williams

Crowder: C.C. Harris

SLOUGHS, LAKES, ETC., ON PROPOSED ROAD FROM LAKE ST. JOHN TO NORTHCUT CYPRESS

On October 16, 1867, Charles H. Kew reported to the County Court on sloughs, etc., that would have to be bridged to construct a road "from the lower levee to the Northcut slough bridge."

This road, as near as I can determine, would have begun in the NE¼ of Section 32, Township 27 N., Range 14 E., and after pursuing a northeasterly course some seven miles, would have reached the Northcut Cypress or slough bridge.

In doing so, according to Kew, the following bodies of water would have had to be bridged, by any road constructed on that line:

Slough, 100 yards wide

Turtle Hole Slough, 200 yards wide

Unnamed slough, 80 yards wide

Sand Lake Island mentioned, but no measurements given

"Cypress" slough, 300 yards wide, Mentions "beaver dam across Cypress."

Unnamed slough, 200 yards wide--to "Dolly Ridge."

Slough "or Glade," 300 yards wide

Sandy Slough, 40 yards wide

Levee across slough 60 yards wide

Levee across slough 80 yards wide "at Henry's tobacco patch."

Little Savannah Slough, 100 yards wide

Thence east to slough 60 yards wide

Then northeast "through Long's field to the west end of Northcut Bridge."

SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL KEPT BY EDWIN JAMES, WHO ACTED AS GEOLOGIST AND BOTANIST ON MAJOR STEPHEN LONG'S EXPEDITION OF 1819-1823

"On the first of June (1819), several gentlemen of the party went on shore, six miles below the settlement of Tyawapatia bottom, and walked up to that place through the woods. They passed several Indian encampments, which appeared to have been recently tenanted. Under one of the wigwams they saw pieces of honeycomb, and several sharpened sticks that had been used to roast meat upon; on a small tree nearby was suspended the lower jaw-bone of a bear. Soon after leaving these they came to another similar camp, where they found a Shawnee Indian and his squaw, with four children, the youngest lashed to a piece of board, and leaned against a tree."

"The (Shawnee) squaws wore great numbers of trinkets, such as silver arm bands and large ear-rings. Some of the boys had pieces of lead tied in various parts of their hair. They were encamped near the Mississippi, for the purpose of hunting on the islands. Their village is on Apple Creek, ten miles from Cape Girardeau."

"About the settlement of Tyawapatia, and near Cape a la Bruche, is a ledge of rocks, stretching across the Mississippi, in a direct line, and in low water forming a serious obstacle to the navigation. These rocks are of limestone, and mark the commencement of the hilly country on the Mississippi. Here the landscape begins to have something of the charm of distant perspective."

The "several gentlemen" began their June 1st, 1819 walk just below Power's Island, and "the settlement of Tyawapatia bottom" was what within four years would become known as the town of Commerce.

Cape a la Bruche, of course, was the present Gray's Point, and the limestone rock ledge was our Grand Chain.

CHARLES LESUEUR, NOTED FRENCH ARTIST AND NATURALIST, AND GERARD TROOST, INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS MINERALOGIST AND GEOLOGIST, SPEND SIXTEEN DAYS IN THE COMMERCE AREA OF SCOTT COUNTY IN MARCH AND APRIL OF THE YEAR 1826.

Lesueur and Troost were important members of the group of world-famous intellectuals that Robert Owen and William Maclure gathered around them at New Harmony, Indiana.

On February 26, 1826, Lesueur and Troost left New Harmony, going down the Ohio River from Mt. Vernon, Ind., to the now defunct town of Trinity, Ill., about four miles up the Ohio above the present site of Cairo. They disembarked there and walked overland some fifteen miles to the Illinois shore opposite Commerce. Part of this long walk had been made very early on the morning of March 1st, 1826. Having passed through a heavy rainstorm, they arrived opposite Commerce in a wet and miserable condition, but were shortly picked up by John Brown, the ferryman at Commerce, and transported across the river.

On arriving, Lesueur sketched two views of Brown's log cabin. One showed chickens in the yard, and beyond the yard, a steamboat wood yard and the Mississippi. The other sketch of the cabin showed a cow in the foreground.

At some time during his stay, Lesueur sketched two views from the opposite or Illinois side of the river, apparently from a site a little upriver from Commerce.

He also sketched and made a water color drawing (the picture included in this history) of a two-story house with an orchard and cultivated field in the background to the south, and with the Mississippi beyond these to the east and southeast.

On March 11th Lesueur and Troost left Commerce on their way to visit the Lamotte and Burton lead mines and the town of Potosi.

On their walk upriver to Cape Girardeau they stopped to rest at John Baldwin's farm home and tannery, located near what is now known as Manning's Landing about a mile and a quarter east of Scott City. Here Lesueur sketched part of Baldwin's home, including a view of the river seen through a screen of dead trees.

After Lesueur and Troost examined the lead district, they returned to Commerce, arriving back there on April 12th or 13th. On the way down the river Lesueur (April 12th) sketched what he called the "Tower Rocks," both from above and below. These rocks are what we now call the Grand Chain, and must have been viewed by Lesueur during a period of low water. Also on April 12th, he sketched the "sandstone," actually quartzite rocks of the Little Chain just above Commerce.

On April 14th he sketched a riverside log house, with porch, in Commerce.

On April 17, 1826 Lesueur and Troost left Commerce, going by steamboat to St. Louis, and then returning to their homes in New Harmony.

There are three sketches dated April 17, apparently drawn as Lesueur was leaving Commerce. Two are of river scenes, and the other shows a house situated on a high bank with a canoe visible in the river in the foreground.

Lesueur, already a well-known artist naturalist, came to America in 1815, and was at New Harmony from 1825 to 1837. In the latter year he returned to his native city of Havre, France, where he lived out the remainder of his life, dying there in 1846 at the age of 68.

The originals of all of his pictures are in the Havre Museum of Natural History. Some, but not all,have been copied for the American Antiquarian Society and other American organizations. I hope to obtain copies of those that were made while Lesueur was in Scott County, but some of these do not appear to be available in America, so it may be very difficult to obtain copies of those available only at the Havre Museum of Natural History.

Gerard Troost left New Harmony in 1828 to accept a position as professor of chemistry, geology and mineralogy at the University of Nashville, a post he held until his death in 1850. In 1831 he was appointed Tennessee's first state geologist and directed the first geological surveys of that state. In the course of his lifetime he amassed what was said to be the finest collection of geological and mineralogical materials ever possessed by a single individual in the United States.

He unquestionably studied the geology of the hills in the Commerce area, and it may have been on his recommendation that Robert Owen patented the Chalk Bluff tract (SE. fractional quarter of Sec. 13, Twp. 29 N., R.14 E.) located a quarter of a mile upriver from Commerce.

The John Baldwin tannery mentioned by Lesueur, seems to have been the first tannery established in Scott County, and his is the first

notice I have seen of it.

It would be interesting to know why Lesueur and Troost went so much out of their way to return to Commerce. Perhaps it had something to do with the land later acquired by Owen.

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EXCERPTS FROM THE OLDEST SURVIVING RECORDS OF THE "CITY OF COMMERCE"

"MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE."

The first entry in this little disbound book, now in the Probate Court Library at Benton, is dated May 19, 1873, and shows the members of the town's board of trustees, at that time, to have been Dr. John D. Porterfield, Cyrus Eversol, Carroll Maye, Wiley A. Hughes, John D. Foster, John Daily and Charles H. Kew, and that their meetings were being held in Kew's office.

Among the board's first actions were the appointments of Carroll Maye as city treasurer, Robert B. Heuchan as city street commissioner and Leonard F. Foster as city marshal.

On July 14, 1873 the Board of Trustees appointed a Sanitary Committee, made up of Dr. Porterfield, Charles Kew and Cyrus Eversol, "to investigate local causes of disease" and "to devise ways and means to prevent the importation of paupers into the city."

(Author's note: An epidemic of cholera broke out in New Orleans in 1873 and spread up river to Commerce and other towns along the Mississippi. This was destined to be the last major outbreak of cholera in the U.S., since, within ten years, the noted bacteriologist Robert Koch had identified the comma-shaped bacillus that caused this horrible malady and was suggesting means of preventing these epidemics.

After the Civil War there was an influx of former slaves into the town of Commerce, and it was this and the unsanitary conditions that often prevailed around their habitations that provoked the committee's remarks about the importation of paupers and the health hazards involved in this situation. See the "Report on the Cholera Epidemic of 1873," U.S. 43rd Congress, 2nd Session, Executive Document 95 for further information on this epidemic.

The entry of Aug. 18, 1873, shows the mayor, whose name is no where mentioned, as refusing to consider or approve a series of new ordinances

that the trustees had placed before him. A committee appointed to investigate this situation issued a report that "censured the mayor for his action, and declared that in the opinion of the members of the committee he was a usurper and intruder in the office, and requested that the prosecuting attorney prepare a complaint in the nature of a quo warranto against the mayor, and prosecute the same."

No further entries were made in this book until April 12, 1875, suggesting some sort of imbroglio halted the meetings of the trustees. A quo warranto, incidentally, is a writ summoning the defendant to appear before the court "to show by what authority or franchise he claims his office." It is also described as "a civil remedy to try the mere right to the franchise or office, when the person in possession never had a right to it or has forfeited it by neglect or abuse."

The entry for April 12, 1875, shows John D. Porterfield to have been the mayor at that time, and the members of the Board of Trustees to have been Vincent Heisserer, Theodore F. Frazer, George Arnold, Simeon R. Jones, Cyrus Eversol, Wm. B. Anderson and John D. Foster. Marshall Arnold was listed as city attorney, John T. Gaither as treasurer, Wm. Hutton as city marshal, Wiley A. Hughes as assessor, and Clinton Billings as the town's street commissioner.

Dram shop and "tippling saloon" licenses were issued in 1875 to John Link, Henry Miller, John L. Cockrum and Nicholas Heisserer. The Heisserer license bore the notation "at his store," indicating that at that time Heisserer was also engaged in a mercantile enterprise of some sort.

The minutes for July 26, 1875 show an ordinance proposed for "abolishing a certain portion of New Madrid Street." This, as we know, was approved, for only one block of that street is now in use.

It was proposed, too, to extend Washington and other streets "to the channel of the Mississippi." Previously, the only street so extended was New Madrid.

Mention was also made of $3.75 spent for the purchase of a new Minute Book. Fortunately this book has survived, and is now in the possession of Mrs. Linus Huck, Mayor of Commerce. The following excerpts are from this book, which extends the records of the "Minutes of the Board of Trustees" up to April 6, 1885.

MARCH 3, 1876: Ordinance approved for licensing ferries. Rates set at $3 for wagons with four horses or oxen, $2.50 for wagon and two horses, $1 for a man and horse, $1.50 for horse & buggy, 25 cents for a man on foot, 75 cents for the first head of cattle or horses and 25 cents for each additional head, and 10 cents for each 100 pounds of freight. "Post riders, couriers, physicians, surgeons and midwives shall in all cases be the first crossed over where all cannot go at the same time."

Jan. 2, 1877: Fire bell to be purchased at a cost not exceeding $30. "Frazer & Ireland (proprietors of the Commerce Dispatch) allowed $4 for printing street commissioner's receipts."

April 2, 1878: Dram shop licenses issued to Nicholas Heisserer, L.P. Clymer, Johanna Ruff (wine & beer only).

April 23, 1878: D.C. Billings and John Daily granted a license to operate a ferry between Commerce and Santa Fe, "for a term of one year."

Aug. 19, 1878: Ordinance 19 amended to empower the Sanitary Committee to go on private property and disinfect and cleanse unclean, foul or pestilential privies, cellars, slop holes, stables and out houses, if, after two days' warning, the owner fails to do so.

Also to give the mayor authority to issue a proclamation forbidding steamboats or other conveyances from landing or bringing any person

or property into the city when, in the judgment of the mayor, or the Sanitary Committee such persons or property may come from some portion of the country infected with contagious disease.

Sept. 17, 1878: Ordinance 22 approved, which reads as follows:

"It is hereby made the duty of the mayor to enforce a street quarantine for the prevention of yellow fever epidemic therein. He is ordered to prevent any and all boats, vessels, skiffs, barges, ferries, and all other crafts from landing at any place within the corporate limits of Commerce, and to prevent the ingress into said city of any person, carriage, wagon or other vehicle coming from any city, town, or place whatsoever where said epidemic may be prevailing, and to prevent the importation into the city of any kind of merchandise, goods or property coming from any place whatsoever where said epidemic is prevailing.

For the purpose of carrying into force the provisions of this ordinance, the mayor is authorized to employ a sufficient police force to permit the mayor to enforce the regulations of this ordinance.

July 14, 1879: Jasper Trotter, custodian of the city jail, allowed $1.75 for "committing and feeding Brenkerman the Bluing Man."

Sat., Nov. 8, 1879: Ordered that Charles Beattie be allowed $5 for quarantining the city during the yellow fever scourge, from Sept. 2 to Sept. 6, 1879. Four nights at $1.25 per night. Ordered that Charles R. Billings be allowed $3.75 for guarding the city during yellow fever scare, Three nights, from Sept. 3 to Sept. 5, 1879.

Dec. 2, 1879: City Marshal's Report--Sept. 3, $3, license for a minstrel show; dramshop licenses to T.J. Hughes, L.P. Clymer, Nicholas Heisserer, and a wine & beer license to Johanna Ruff. Philip Hafner was fined $1.50 for an unmentioned offense. This is the first notice of Hafner, later editor of the Scott County Newsboy, as being present in this county.

B.F. Anderson allowed $7 for four barrels of lime (per order of Board of Health during the month of Sept. 1879 for disinfectant purposes during the yellow fever scare).

Marshall Arnold employed "to investigate matters concerning the city's title to the public square and to represent the city in a case involving the city and the county to determine ownership of the former courthouse and the block of lots surrounding it.

Feb. 18, 1880: S.R. Jones, John T. Gaither and Bedford High appointed as a committee "to advise with the Library Association Committee, and lease to them on the part of the city one of the rooms in the city hall (former courthouse) for the use and benefit of said Library Association."

June 5, 1880: Ordered that Charles H. Kew be allowed fifty cents expenses in filling up old privy sink (on courthouse square ?). Kew was city treasurer at that time.

Sept. 4, 1880: Dr. Frazer appointed commissioner to "lease unto Benjamin B. Gaither, Carroll Moye, Benjamin McKinley, Wm. B. Anderson, and others (a corporation) for the purpose of building and operating a mill for the purpose of grinding wheat and corn, and doing a general milling business and other uses connected therewith. The following piece or parcel of land, in the City of Commerce: bounded as follows: Commencing at a point sixty feet east from the NE. corner of Lot 9, thence south 160 feet, and parallel with the street, thence east 100 feet, thence north 160 feet, thence west 100 feet to the place of beginning." Said lease to be for a term of 30 years at a rental of $12 per year, and to be renewable at the expiration of the initial thirty-year lease period.

Aug. 6, 1883: "And now comes Street Committee & presents the following itemized list of Tools belonging to the City of Commerce: one pick, two scrapers, three round pointed shovels, two square pointed shovels, one long handled round shovel, one plow, one bucket, one rake and three sand wagon beds."

THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1878

The epidemic began in the South in late July and reached Cairo, Ill., on Sept. 12th. Two deaths from the dread malady occurred on that day. Panic ensued and hundreds fled the city on the afternoon and evening of the 12th. The Cairo Bulletin suspended publication and the Evening Sun's editor fled the city, but his subordinates continued to publish the paper. Trains entering the city were searched for possible fever victims and the levees were patrolled by armed guards to prevent boats landing and bringing in yellow fever cases.

The epidemic at Cairo continued into October, resulting in about fifty deaths. At Hickman, Kentucky, there were 454 cases and 180 deaths.

Mortality figures for Commerce were not available, but cemetery records suggest that there were two or more yellow fever connected deaths.

THE THOMPSON-ROSS FAMILY CEMETERY

On June 3, 1984, while searching for a large cemetery just south of Commerce that a traveller had reported seeing in 1834, Gerry Slinkard and I determined to investigate the so-called "Ross Cemetery, a mile and a quarter below Commerce. This is located on the old 1802 Cousins land grant (Survey 1841, on property now owned by William Beardsley. Mr. Beardsley gave us permission to investigate the site, in fact, accompanied us to it.

Only two broken marble grave markers were in evidence, but on probing the site, we located seven gravestones that had fallen over and become buried in the 102 years that had elapsed since the last burial had been made there.

The oldest of these buried monuments was that of "Sarah J., daughter of John and Jane G. Thompson, born July 19, 1824, died Oct. 19, 1837."

One of the two above ground monuments was that of Jane G. Thompson, wife of John Thompson, born Mar. 6, 1791, Died July 9, 1839. There was a notation on the lower end of this monument that indicated it had been made by "L.W. Danforth, Henderson, Kentucky."

These Danforths later (1860-62) moved to Charleston, Mo., where they got into the milling business and became quite prosperous. Later they moved to St. Louis, and as you know, one of their descendants is now a senator representing our state.

Jane G. Thompson was mentioned earlier in this history in connection with an ad in the Feb. 29, 1840 Jackson, Mo., "Southern Advocate," wherein James F. Ross and Harrison S. Thompson, the administrators of her estate, were advertising the sale of five slaves that had belonged to Jane G. Thompson.

James F. Ross, mentioned above, is also buried in this family cemetery. His tombstone indicates that he was born March 9, 1791, and died March 4, 1860. "Aged 68 years, 11 months and 24 days."

The assessor's report for 1861 shows that the James F. Ross estate, then in the process of being settled, included 28 slaves valued at $10,000. He was thus, at the time of his death, the second largest slaveholder in the county, being surpassed only by Nathaniel Watkins.

As a matter of fact, this whole area of Spanish land grant tracts from Commerce to the county line was inhabited by slaveowners, such as the Campbells, Princes, Rodneys, Coffmans, Prices and others. Old deeds and wills sometimes mention the "mansion houses," but these are long gone, many of them, no doubt, destroyed during the Civil War.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE ROCK LEVEE ROAD

Mr. Albert Hilleman, who resides on the Outer Road near the southern terminus of the Rock Levee Road, has informed me that some years ago, when the Rock Levee portion of the Outer Road was being repaired, the laid stone base described in the 1849 incorporation act was actually uncovered.

This, however, was not, as the original incorporators thought, a macadamized road of the type developed by John McAdam back in the early 1800s. It was, instead, a Telford type road, advocated and developed by Thomas Telford. Telford's roads had a laid stone base, whereas, McAdam's roads were built of sized broken stone similar to the chat roads we sometimes build even today.

CHARCOAL ROADS

In view of the foregoing, it would be interesting to know whether the 1859 incorporators of the Northcut Swamp road actually made use of charcoal in constructing their toll road.

These roads, I have since learned, were built by piling logs six inches to two feet in diameter lengthwise along the road in stacks nine feet in breadth, six feet in height and two feet in breadth at the top. Kindling was intermixed in these lines of stacks and dirt from the roadside ditches was spread over them.

When these log stacks were burned, the charcoal was raked down to form a road of a well rounded section. The result, it was said, was a durable, dry and hard road surface.

TWO INDIAN CEMETERIES

On Hopper Avenue, near the center of Scott City, there is an overgrown knoll that, according to local tradition, was once an Indian cemetery. Old maps of the town show it, and the layout of the town around it suggests that it antedates the town, that, in fact,the townsite was surveyed around it.

Mrs. Raymond Eifert, who played in this cemetery when a child, remembers that there was then a stone monument there that indicated that one of the graves was that on an "Indian princess."

There were no princesses among the Indians, so this monument must have been erected by a white man. This suggests the "Indian princess' " burial was of sufficiently recent date for some early residents of the area to recall the location of her grave and the circumstances surrounding her death, and to erect a monument to mark the site.

John S. Kochtitsky, in his pamphlet on the "Removal of the Cherokee Indians," indicates that in the winter of 1838-1839, not all the parties traveling by land passed through Cape Girardeau County. It was reported by old men who made the trip 50 years before that the crossing of the Mississippi River was made in two divisions at Greens Ferry and Cape Girardeau (this must have been Grays Point.)"

The parenthetical remarks were added in the Koenig-Kochtitsky book because there is no record of a crossing having been made at cape Girardeau, which even at that time had a newspaper (The Patriot), and it is not likely that the passing of such a sizable group of people would have gone unrecorded.

We know, too, that there was a ferry at what is now known as Manning's Landing, even at that early date, so the crossing there would have been both logical and feasible. We also know that many of the Cherokees died at stopping places during the severe winter of 1838-1839, so all we have to do to explain this cemetery is to assume that the future site of Scott City was one of these stopping places.

The Indian princess' monument is known to have been standing as late as 1960, but its whereabouts at the present time are unknown. It may even be buried on the cemetery site, though probing so far has failed to reveal it. However, the site is so overgrown that our search, at best, was only a partial one, and the monument consequently could have been missed by us.

INDIAN CEMETERY ALONGSIDE THE GIBONEY FAMILY CEMETERY

White settlers oftentimes located their towns on or near the sites of Indian villages, and that appears to have been true, at least in some cases, as to cemeteries. At any rate, Albert Hilleman, whose family has resided near the Giboney cemetery since the 1840s, has informed me that there is an Indian cemetery that adjoins the Giboney cemetery on the south, and that the students of SEMO University once explored a portion of it, and in doing so, unearthed some bones. He indicated, too, that broken fragments of Indian pottery, at one time, more or less littered the cemetery site.

FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS SECTION AT END OR BACK OF BOOK.

Excerpts from "The Laws of the Territory of Missouri."

"An Act to Incorporate the Stockholders to the Bank of St. Louis." Approved by the General Assembly of the Territory of Missouri August 13, 1813.

"A share in the said bank shall be one hundred dollars, and the number of shares shall not exceed fifteen hundred, exclusive of any shares that may be subscribed on the part of the territory of Missouri. And a book or books for (stock) subscriptions shall be kept open under the direction of the said (bank) commissioners; and the first opening of the books shall be on the same day at St. Louis, St. Charles, St. Genevieve, Mine a Burton (Potosi), Cape Girardeau and New Madrid."

If New Madrid and the surrounding area had been devastated to the extent that some now claim, it is hardly likely that well-informed men, such as Auguste Chouteau, Moses Austin, Manuel Lisa and Rufus Easton would have opened stock subscription books there only eighteen months or so after the last major shock of the New Madrid earthquakes had occurred.

"An Act Establishing Counties and County Lines," approved Dec. 31, 1813.

All that portion of the territory bounded north by the south lines of the counties of St. Genevieve and Washington; east by the main channel of the Mississippi river; south by a line commencing in the Mississippi river, at the head of Tywapity bottom, at the upper end of a tract of land where James Brady now lives (about two thirds of a mile south of the present southern boundary of the town of Commerce); thence west to the south side of the big swamp; thence a direct line to the Shawnee village on Castor river; thence due west to the western boundary line of the Osage purchase; thence northwardly on said line to the south line of the county of Washington, shall compose a county, and shall be called and known by the name of the county of Cape Girardeau.

All that portion of the territory bounded north by the south line of the county of Cape Girardeau, east by the main channel of the Mississippi river; south by a line commencing in said river opposite the lower end of the island laid down in the navigator as number nineteen (about four miles north of the present town of Hayti); thence a direct line to strike White river at the mouth of the little Red River, thence up Red river to the western boundary of the Osage purchase; thence northwardly on said line to the south line of the county of Cape Girardeau, shall compose a county, and be called and known by the name of the county of New Madrid."

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FOR MISCELLANEOUS SECTION

LAWS OF MISSOURI, 1874

Approved March 13, 1874:

"William S. Bassett, his associates, successors and assigns are authorized to open and improve the channel of the Whitewater river within the counties of Scott, Stoddard and New Madrid, as far south as the present road-bed of the Cairo, Arkansas and Texas railroad, and no further. They shall have the right to cut timber from its banks, remove (driftwood) rafts, logs, gravel, earth and other obstructions to navigation from its channel, and to deepen the same. They shall have the exclusive right to navigate the said Whitewater river for a term of fifteen years, within the limits so cleared out."

Wm. Bassett, as you may recall, was operating an ochre mill, paint factory and stave mill in 1874, at a location about a mile and a half southeast of Oran. Perhaps he intended to ship logs, lumber or staves downriver on the Whitewater for transshipment on the Cairo, Arkansas and Texas railroad.

RESOLUTION APPROVED MARCH 30, 1874:

This resolution asked Congress to permit the depositing of funds for surveying 75,000 to 100,000 acres of unsurveyed swamp land in Southeast Missouri, so that this land could be sold. Maps as late as 1858 show swamp land in Scott County, especially that west of the Sikeston Ridge, as being at that time still unsurveyed.

EXTRACTS FROM "LAWS OF MISSOURI," VOLUMES, 1843 to 1859

1843: "An Act to establish a State road in Scott and Stoddard counties.--Samuel Moore and Robert L. Glascock, of Stoddard county, and Washington Jones and James Evans, of Scott county, are appointed commissioners to view and mark a State road from Bloomfield in Stoddard County, to Benton in Scott county, and make report thereof.

The present county road from Benton to Commerce in Scott county, is hereby established as a State road, and both roads hereby established as State roads, and both shall be kept open and in good repair. Approved Feb. 28, 1843."

1849:"An Act to incorporate the Commerce Steam Mill Company.--The objects of this incorporation are declared to be, the building of a steam saw, grist and flouring mills, at or near Commerce.

Thomas M. Shaw, Abraham Hunter and John Harbison, are hereby appointed commissioners to obtain subscriptions of the stock of said corporation. Approved March 8, 1849."

1849: "An Act to incorporate the Scott and Cape Girardeau counties Turnpike Road Company.--For forming and maintaining an artificial road on the McAdam plan, across the Big Swamp, on the Main road leading from Benton, in Scott County, to Jackson, in Cape Girardeau County.

Books for the subscription of $15,000 in stock shall be opened in Benton and Commerce, under the direction of Felix G. Allen, John Harbison, Wm. Hamilton, Edward B. Kelso, Thomas M. Shaw, John Mares, John C. Myers, Alexander Waugh, Pascal Ancel, Isaac

Hinkle, and Edward Buckner; and at the town of Jackson under the direction of Albert H. Brevard, Wm. C. Ranney, Nathaniel Watkins, Wm. W. Horrell, Charles Willing, and Alvan Cook; and in Cape Girardeau, under Simeon English, Hiram L. Sloan, Isaac S. Williams, John Crose, and Samuel A. Hill.

Said road shall be made from the high-land of Cape Girardeau County to the high-land of Scott County, and shall be constructed by throwing up a levee above ordinary high water, across said Big Swamp; said levee to be at least thirty feet wide on the top, and to have a ditch cut on each side of said road; and said ditches to be connected by stone culverts; in such a manner as to drain the water from said levee; and after said levee and culverts are made, a pavement of stone shall be made on said levee; said pavement shall be at least sixteen feet wide, and shall be made of stone set edgewise, and curbed with stone at each side, not more than four inches thick; and said pavement shall be at least eight inches thick, and shall be covered six inches thick with stone or gravel, which will pass through a circle two inches and a half in diameter.

That no persons or persons shall construct any road or way within two miles of either side of said road, for the purpose of diverting travellers from passing on said McAdamized road.

On completion of said road, they may then erect and keep on said road a toll-gate, at which they may receive the following rates of toll for travelling on said road: For each man and horse, ten cents; for each loose horse, four cents; for each four-horse wagon and team, thirty cents; for each two-horse pleasure carriage,

forty cents; for each head of neat cattle, two cents; for each hog and other animal, one cent; and other things in like proportion."

Apparently this corporation did not succeed in getting this road built, for in 1851, a similar corporation, with James Cannon, Wilson Brown, Nathaniel Watkins, Thomas Johnson, Abraham Hunter, Peter Byrne and Amasa Alton listed as incorporators, was approved by the State Legislature.

At any rate, this road, now known as the Rock Levee Road, was completed before the Civil War and continued in use until Highway 61 was completed in the early 1920s. Whether is was built entirely on the McAdam plan, featuring the stone pavement, is not now apparent, but I hope to determine that as soon as the waters of the present flood recede. It should be emphasized that the Rock Levee Road was a part of the Jackson-Benton Road, the Cape Girardeau city branch of it not being completed until about 1871 or 1872.

1851: "The New Madrid Plank Road Company is incorporated by Luke Byrne, Eli Sherwood, Frederick C. Butler, Amos Riley, Benjamin F. Boyce, James Stalcup, William Sikes, Samuel W. Allen and Thomas Morrison to build a plank road from New Madrid, to the north through Big Prairie to the Scott County line, with the privilege of extending the same to Benton, and are hereby authorized to lay out said road upon the public road now leading from the town of New Madrid to the town of Benton. Approved Feb. 28, 1851."

1851: "Abraham Hunter is authorized to build a toll levee or road across Lake St. John, east of and adjoining the farm of the said Hunter in Scott County, said levee being about one half mile in length. Approved Feb. 25, 1851."

1859: "An Act to authorize Charles H. Kew to build and construct a toll levee or road in Scott County across the Cypress Swamp near the residence of said Kew, and on or near the present road across the said Cypress Swamp, near the farm of said Kew; said road or levee being about one mile and a quarter in length, which shall be of sufficient width and height to make a good, dry and convenient road for travel and loaded teams of every kind."

1859: "An Act to encourage building a road across the Northcut Swamp in Scott County. That Benjamin Benefield, Wm. B. Bush, Francis Kirkpatrick, and Robert Price are authorized to locate and build a road of plank, gravel, charcoal or other material, from the western side of Long Prairie (across the swamp) to the eastern side of Big Prairie. Approved Feb. 28, 1859."

ABSTRACT OF REPORTS OF COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS
FOR SCOTT AND CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 1870.

SCOTT COUNTY: The county superintendent, John N. Hill, reported that in 1870 the county had 18 schoolhouses, 14 of which were of log construction, and four were frame buildings. Their average value was $146, while their furnishings, such as they were, had an estimated average value of $25.40

A private school was established at Commerce in 1870 by A. Faulkner, Its building and grounds were estimated to be worth $600.

A Teachers' Institute (meeting) was held at Commerce in 1870. Twenty-five people attended, but only five of those in attendance were teachers. Edmund Gray served as president, and Miss M. Butler, as secretary.

The county, of course, had no high schools. Average salary of the county's teachers at that time was $45 per month, and the average school term was then only three months. One new frame schoolhouse had been built in 1870. The county then had 474 students in its public schools and 129 in its private schools. Of these totals, only 47 colored or Negro children. The number of qualified teachers in the county was given as twenty.

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY: County Superintendent J.H. Kerr indicated that one of the problems in Cape Girardeau County at that time was that many of the county's school directors were unable to read or write.

He stated, too, that it was his observation that "not more than one Cape Girardeau County family in twenty took any kind of newspaper, and that many had no other books than Webster's Blue Back Speller and the Bible."

He listed Cape Girardeau County as then having 40 school buildings, 14 of which were log structures, 22 were frame buildings, and four were of brick construction. Nine new school buildings had been erected in 1870. Four of these were log buildings,and five were frame.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

And now, before I type "finis" to this work and place the cover over my typewriter, I should thank those who aided me in one way or another in researching and writing this history.

Both the present president of the Scott County Historical Society, Eugene Diebold, and the past president, Judge Louie Hirschowitz, have aided, supported and facilitated, in every way possible, the preparation of this work, from the beginning of the project, to its conclusion.

Those who aided in the documentary research were Mrs. Sylvester Glastetter, David Dickey, Mason Emerson, Mrs. Vernon Phillips, Mrs. Con McArthur and Miss Margaret Mates.

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Mention should be made, too, of that dedicated group of eight people who met at the old Morley bank building on Nov. 15, 1980 and organized the Scott County Historical Society. Those attending this inaugural meeting were Mason Emerson, who served as chairman on that occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Glastetter, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lasater, Judge Louie Hirschowitz, Mary McArthur and Janice Edmiston. Without this beginning, the history project would not have eventuated.

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FINIS